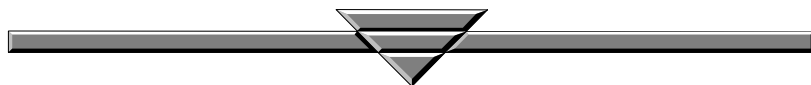


**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



**2007
CHILD MALTREATMENT
STATISTICS**

May 2009 (Revised)

**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**2007
CHILD MALTREATMENT
STATISTICS**

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Executive Summary

This report contains descriptive statistics dealing with reports, screening and investigation decisions, reporting groups, and the characteristics of maltreated children, mothers, and perpetrators. Separate analyses are presented for each type of maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Although the maltreatment data were mostly analyzed at a statewide level, some statistics are presented at the DCF Regional and Area Office levels. Maltreatment reporting and victimization rates, and associated demographic/socioeconomic factors are provided for selected cities and towns. These rates are useful for monitoring the incidence and distribution of child maltreatment in Massachusetts.

Statistics presented for calendar year 2007 are compared to data from prior years. The report is intended to be used for monitoring purposes and education. For example, it provides: descriptions of victimized children, parents, perpetrators, and reporters by type of maltreatment (recognition/education); data on the incidence and distribution of child maltreatment in the state (allocation of resources for prevention and treatment programs); and feedback about the DCF reporting/investigation system (screening/investigating/case-opening process).

Principal observations from the analysis of child maltreatment data collected during 2007 are:

Reporting

- During 2007, DCF received 74,880 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 114,421 children were identified in these reports. Compared to 2006, this was a 4% increase in the number of children identified.
- The 4% gain in reported children from 2006 to 2007 followed an eight-year period (1998-2006) of slow but steady growth (13%) in reported children.
- Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF. As a proportion of all children reported (114,421), neglect accounted for 85%, physical abuse for 18%, and sexual abuse for 6%.
- Reporting groups that contributed the most to the 2006-2007 rise in reports of allegedly maltreated children were: law enforcement personnel, “other” mandated reporters, and school personnel.

Screening and Investigation Decisions

All Maltreatment

- The screen-in rate for all maltreatment in 2007 was 65%. From 1997 to 2007, screen-in rates have ranged from 62% to 68%.
- Compared to other reporting groups, maltreated children reported by DCF social workers, law enforcement personnel, and medical professionals were more likely to be screened-in — screening rates of 76%, 73%, and 71%, respectively.
- In 2007, DCF conducted 40,535 investigations of alleged maltreatment involving 64,799 children. Of these children, 37,209 (57%) were found to have been victimized (supported allegations). Along with the 2006-2007 growth in reported children, there was an increase of 4% in children who were the subjects of investigations and a 5% gain in children with allegations supported following an investigation.
- The percentage of children with an investigation that resulted in a decision to support was 57% in 2007. From 1997 to 2007, the support rate has increased from 51% to 57%.

Types of Maltreatment

- Compared to other forms of maltreatment, a child with a reported allegation of physical abuse was more likely to be screened-in (73% vs. 66% for neglect and 41% for sexual abuse). However, at the investigation level, allegations of physical abuse (and sexual abuse) were much less likely than neglect to be supported (60% for neglect vs. 33% for both physical and sexual abuse). Sexual abuse allegations were the least likely to be screened-in and supported.

City/Town Reporting Rates

All Maltreatment

- In 2007 the maltreatment reporting rate for Massachusetts was 51.2 reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. There were 31 cities/towns with a higher reporting rate than the state. The maltreatment reporting rate was 50.4 in 1997.

- North Adams, Holyoke, Pittsfield, and Springfield had the highest reporting rates among cities in 2007. Twenty-eight municipalities had higher reporting rates than Boston. In 1997, Holyoke had the highest reporting rate, followed by Greenfield, North Adams, and Lynn. Although high reporting rates indicate a high incidence of maltreatment, they may also reflect a high public awareness within the geographic area.

Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors

- Holyoke, Springfield, New Bedford, and Lawrence had the highest values for the following indicators of poverty and stress: %households with public assistance income; %families with related children less than 18 years old below poverty level; %families with single female with related children less than 18 below poverty level; %unemployed; teen birth rate; and the lowest median family income. Other cities with high values for some of the preceding indicators were: Chelsea, North Adams, and Fall River.

City/Town Victimization Rates

- The victimization rate in Massachusetts was 22.3 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. The top six municipalities with the highest reporting rates also had the highest victimization rates.

Maltreatment Trends (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Neglect is clearly the driving force behind the sustained growth in child maltreatment over the years (1983-2007). Physical abuse and sexual abuse have been declining for most of the past 17 and 22 years, respectively.
- The continued decline in sexual abuse is a national phenomenon. Escalating numbers of sexually abused children during the 1980s were followed by declining numbers during the 1990s. Researchers believe that multiple factors are responsible for the decrease in reports and substantiations of sexual abuse. However, there is no clear consensus as to which factors are involved and to what degree they contributed to the decline.

- In Massachusetts, there has also been a dramatic decline in the number of sexually abused children. From 1990 to 2007, the number of children sexually abused dropped 69%. Substantial declines occurred across all ages, but most significantly among the youngest children. As a result, the largest age group among sexually abused children shifted from 3-5 years in 1990-1997 to 12-14 years in 2002-2007.
- In Massachusetts, the number of children with supported allegations of sexual abuse dropped 11% from 2006 to 2007. Over the same period, neglected children rose 6% while physically abused children declined less than 1%.

Recidivism (Supported Allegations)

All Maltreatment

- There were 23,337 supported investigations involving 37,209 children in 2007. Forty-two percent of these children had no prior investigation, 34% had a prior supported investigation, and 24% had a prior unsupported investigation.
- Recidivism time does not appear to be affected by whether a child had a prior supported investigation or an unsupported investigation. There was little difference in the elapsed time distributions for children with prior supported or prior unsupported investigations.
- Of the 12,483 children with a previous supported investigation, 47% were “resupported” within 1 year, 20% within 1-2 years, and 33% in 2 or more years.

DCF Region and Area Statistics

All Maltreatment (Screening and Investigation Decisions)

- The Northeast had the highest screen-in rate (71%) and the lowest support rate (52%). In contrast, Metro had the lowest screen-in rate (59%) and highest support rate (61%). Statewide, 65% of reported children were screened-in and 57% of investigated children had a supported maltreatment finding.

Types of Maltreatment (Supported Allegations)

- From 2006 to 2007, the Pittsfield (32%), Worcester East (26%), and Brockton (18%) Area Offices exhibited the largest growth in neglected children (w/supported allegations). For physical abuse, the most significant increases were recorded at the Pittsfield (47%), Van Wart (41%), and Harbor (27%) offices. Area offices with relatively large increases in sexually abused children were Framingham (214%),¹ Brockton (75%), and Cape & Islands (64%).
- Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices. As a percentage of all maltreatment supported, neglect ranged from 84% in Lawrence to 99% in Greenfield. Physical abuse was most prevalent in the Lawrence (26%) and North Central (24%) Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common (4% each) at the North Central, Worcester East, Cape & Islands, Worcester West, and Dimock Street Area Offices.

Reporters

All Maltreatment

- In 2007, 69% of the children reported by mandated sources were screened-in compared to 56% for nonmandated and 52% for anonymous. Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (76%), self-reporting children (74%), law enforcement personnel (73%), medical personnel (71%), and school personnel (67%).
- Mothers and fathers in-the-home and out-of-the-home were the only reporting groups with screen-in rates below 50% (ranged from 40% to 49%).
- Law enforcement personnel encountered more children in high-risk situations. Eighteen percent of the children reported to DCF by law enforcement personnel had their reports screened-in as emergencies. Statewide, 7% of all children reported were screened-in as an emergency.
- The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (18,761) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (14,344). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (10,227) and medical professionals (10,128).
- Reports of maltreatment were highest in March, May, and October. The major reporting groups during these three months were law enforcement agencies, school personnel, and anonymous callers.

¹ There were 7 sexually abused children in 2006 and 22 in 2007 who received services at the Framingham Area Office. In each year, there was no child with more than one supported investigation.

Types of Maltreatment

- Children reported by mandated sources exceeded children reported by nonmandated for all forms of maltreatment. Mandated sources reported 69%, 79%, and 86% of all children reported neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused, respectively. Medical professionals were the primary reporters of sexual abuse. Physical abuse was most frequently reported by school personnel. Law enforcement agencies were the leading reporters of neglect.
- The mandated reporting group had higher screen-in rates for neglect and physical abuse than the nonmandated and anonymous reporting groups. However, nonmandated and anonymous reporters had higher screen-in rates for sexual abuse than mandated reporters. Reporters with the highest screen-in rates for sexual abuse were: father-in-home, “other” relative, DCF social worker, and “other” nonmandated.

Characteristics of Biological Mothers of Reported Children

Types of Maltreatment

- Comparing the age and marital status distributions of bio-mothers by type of alleged maltreatment, showed a tendency towards younger, single mothers of neglected children. For neglect, a greater proportion of mothers spanned the ages 20 to 29 years while other maltreatment types had greater proportions of mothers in the 40 to 49 year age range.
- Depending on the type of maltreatment, up to 3% of the mothers with allegedly maltreated children in 2007 were teenagers. However, the teenage component rose to 41-47% when age was determined at the birth of their oldest child.

Characteristics of Victimized Children (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Approximately equal numbers of boys and girls were neglected and physically abused. Seventy-eight percent of sexually abused children were female.
- During the adolescent years, significantly more girls than boys were physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected.

- Neglect victimizations (both boys and girls) were highest at ages less than one year and gradually diminished with increasing age. However, there was a resurgence in girls between the ages of 13 and 16.
- Physically abused boys outnumbered girls at ages 12 years and younger. At ages 13 and older, girls were more numerous than boys. The number of female victims peaked at 15 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years.
- The number of sexually abused girls exceeded the number of boys at all ages. Female victims of sexual abuse were most numerous at ages 14-16 years. The number of male victims of sexual abuse peaked at 5-6 years old and 14 years old.
- Of all children sexually abused, 40% were White, 22% were Hispanic, and 9% were Black. Physically abused children were 35% White, 27% Hispanic, and 17% Black. Neglected children were 45% White, 22% Hispanic, and 12% Black.
- Over the years, all types of maltreatment have been declining for the 0 to 5 age group. From 1989 to 2007, maltreatment in the 12 to 17 year old age group has increased 7% for physical abuse, 9% for neglect, and 16% for sexual abuse. There has been a shift in victimized children from the youngest to the oldest regardless of the type of maltreatment.

Characteristics of Perpetrators (Supported Allegations)

Types of Maltreatment

- Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (58% vs. 40% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (84%). There were approximately equal proportions of male and female perpetrators of physical abuse.
- The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group. Compared to physical abuse and neglect, there were greater proportions sexual abuse perpetrators who were teenagers or 50 years or older.
- Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to have been identified as a perpetrator in a prior supported investigation. This higher proportion of repeat offenders may be an indicator of chronic neglect.

- Biological parents are the leading perpetrators of neglect and physical abuse. The proportion of mothers is greater than the proportion of fathers, especially for neglect. Fathers are the most significant perpetrators of sexual abuse. They are followed by Other Relative, Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home, and Stepfather.

Investigation Outcomes

Types of Maltreatment

- Investigation outcomes for neglected and physically abused children were similar, 64-65% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 23-24% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—39%. This disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—34% vs. 11-12% for neglect and physical abuse. Services were not required because the alleged perpetrator was not currently involved with the family and posed no current or potential threat to the child. Additionally, the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) dealt with the situation appropriately.
- The type of maltreatment had no effect on the percentage of children receiving placement services within 90 days following an investigation disposition to support an allegation: 7% of neglected, 9% of physically abused, and 9% of sexually abused children entered placement.

Child Maltreatment and the DCF Caseload

- Child maltreatment is the driving force behind the DCF caseload. On the 31st of December 2007, 80% of 8,979 children less than 18 years old in placement had their case opened by a supported report of maltreatment. The remaining children in placement entered DCF care via a voluntary request, CHINS referral, and other means (court referral, institutional abuse/neglect). Of 33,573 children not in placement (active case status with an assessment for services or a service plan) less than 18 years old, 84% had case openings via a supported report. On the last day of 2007, DCF had 24,841 open cases representing 81,040 consumers. A total of 38,488 adults and 42,552 children were being served.

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NOTES

Most of the statistics in this annual analysis are based on duplicate counts of children who were the subjects of reports and investigations. Duplicate counts allow the inclusion of all reports, investigations, and types of maltreatment for each child. Through the use of duplicate child counts, data are recorded for a child each time he/she is reported and investigated during the year. In reports and investigations where more than one type of maltreatment is alleged or supported for a child, he/she is counted in each of the maltreatment categories. Appendix Table A1 displays statewide duplicate counts of children as well as unduplicated counts of reports, investigations, and children.

Guidelines for screening and investigating a report of child maltreatment are summarized in the chart on the following page. The principal types of maltreatment are neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.

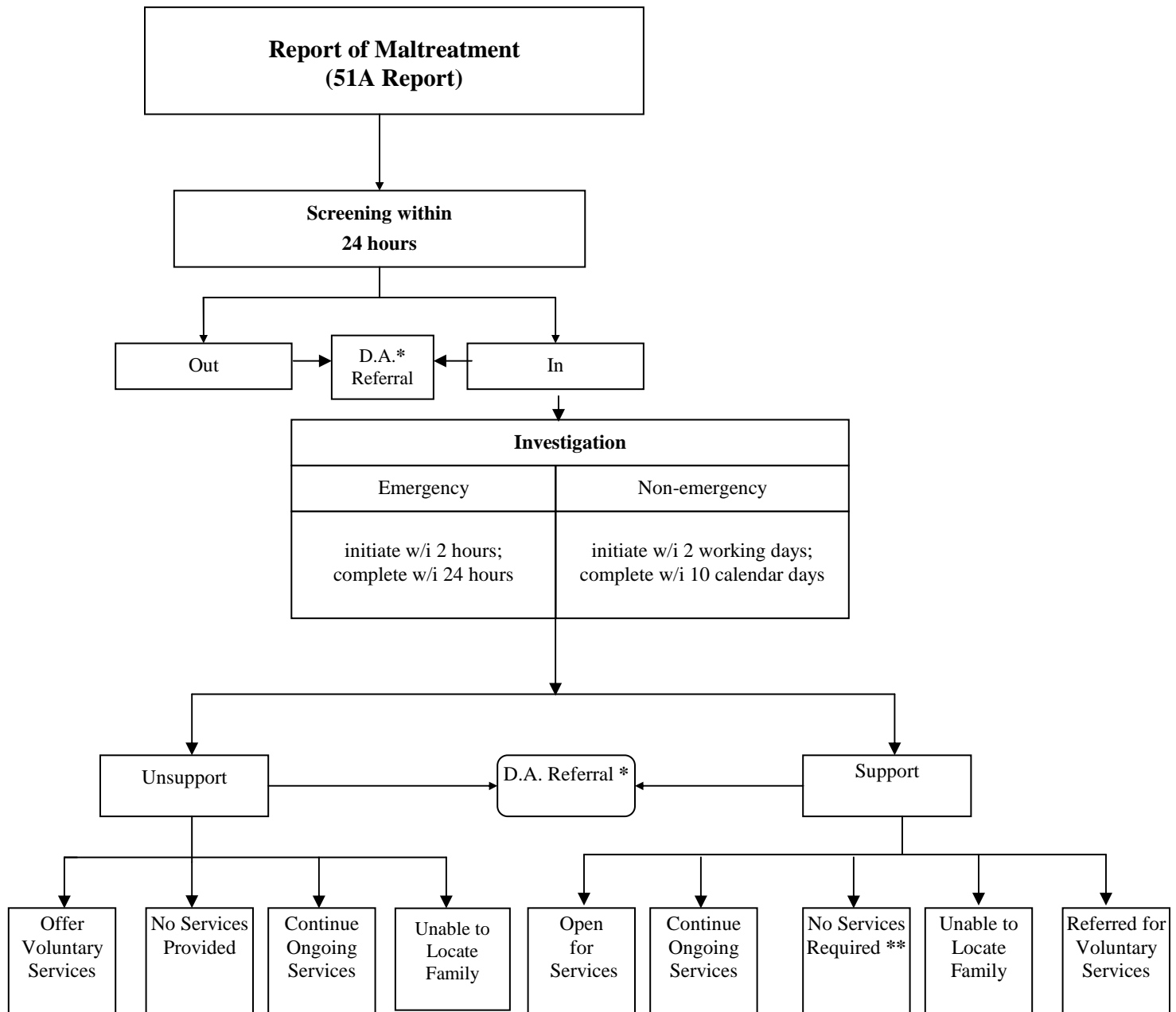
Neglect: Failure by a caretaker,² either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care; provided, however, that such inability is not due solely to inadequate economic resources or solely to the existence of a handicapping condition. This definition is not dependent upon location (in other words, neglect can occur while the child is at an out-of-home or in-home setting).

Physical Abuse: The non-accidental commission of any act by a caretaker upon a child under age eighteen which causes, or creates a substantial risk of physical injury. This definition is not dependent upon location. Physical Injury is defined as death;³ or fracture of a bone, a subdural hematoma, burns, impairment of any organ, and any other such non-trivial injury; or soft tissue swelling or skin bruising depending upon such factors as the child's age, circumstances under which the injury occurred, and the number and location of bruises. Not every injury, tissue swelling and/or bruise is proof of physical abuse. When, where, how, and why the injury occurred must be considered in making the clinical decision as to whether the injury resulted from abuse.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse occurs when an adult caretaker has any sexual contact with a child. Sexual exploitation and molestation are also considered abuse.

² A child's parent, stepparent, guardian, any household member and any other person entrusted with the responsibility for a child's health or welfare, whether in the child's home, a relative's home, a school setting, a day-care setting (including baby-sitting), a foster home, a group-care facility, or any other comparable setting. As such, "caretaker" includes (but is not limited to) school teachers, baby-sitters, school bus drivers, camp counselors, etc. The "caretaker" definition is meant to be construed broadly and inclusively to encompass any person who is, at the time in question, entrusted with a degree of responsibility for the child. This specifically includes a caretaker who is a child (for example, a baby-sitter under age 18 years).

³ An analysis of child deaths from abuse and neglect can be found in a separate DCF annual report, "Analysis of Child Fatalities." (See DCF website www.mass.gov/dcf)



* Mandatory referrals must be made to the District Attorneys (and local law enforcement authorities) within 5 working days of the supported decision (sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or death). Mandatory referrals are also made when a maltreatment report is either screened-out or unsupported because the alleged perpetrator did not meet the definitions of caretaker, but the allegation did match one of the maltreatment types. Discretionary referrals are made to the DAs in the following situations: DCF may immediately report cases of serious physical injury to the DA and may refer other matters involving possible criminal conduct (including but not limited to cases of abuse or neglect) to the DA, regardless of whether the maltreatment report is supported or unsupported.

** The case is not opened (child is no longer at risk).

The analyses in this report quantify the magnitude of the child maltreatment problem, its various forms and geographic distribution, and the characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and reporters. The report does not address what factors contribute to the risk of maltreatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) present the following list of characteristics found to increase the risk of being maltreated.⁴ These factors are associated with child maltreatment; they may not be direct causes.

Risk Factors for Perpetration

Individual Risk Factors

- Parents' lack of understanding of children's needs and child development, and parenting skills
- Parents' history of child abuse in family of origin
- Substance abuse in the family
- Young, single non-biological parents
- Parental thoughts and emotions supporting maltreatment behaviors
- Parental stress and distress, including depression or other mental health conditions

Family Risk Factors

- Social isolation of families
- Poverty and other socioeconomic disadvantage such as unemployment or lack of education
- Family disorganization, dissolution, and violence, including intimate partner violence
- Poor parent-child relationships and negative interactions

Community Risk Factors

- Community violence

Risk Factors for Victimization

Individual Risk Factors

- Children younger than 4 years are at greatest risk for severe injury or death
- Disabilities or mental retardation in children that may increase caregiver burden

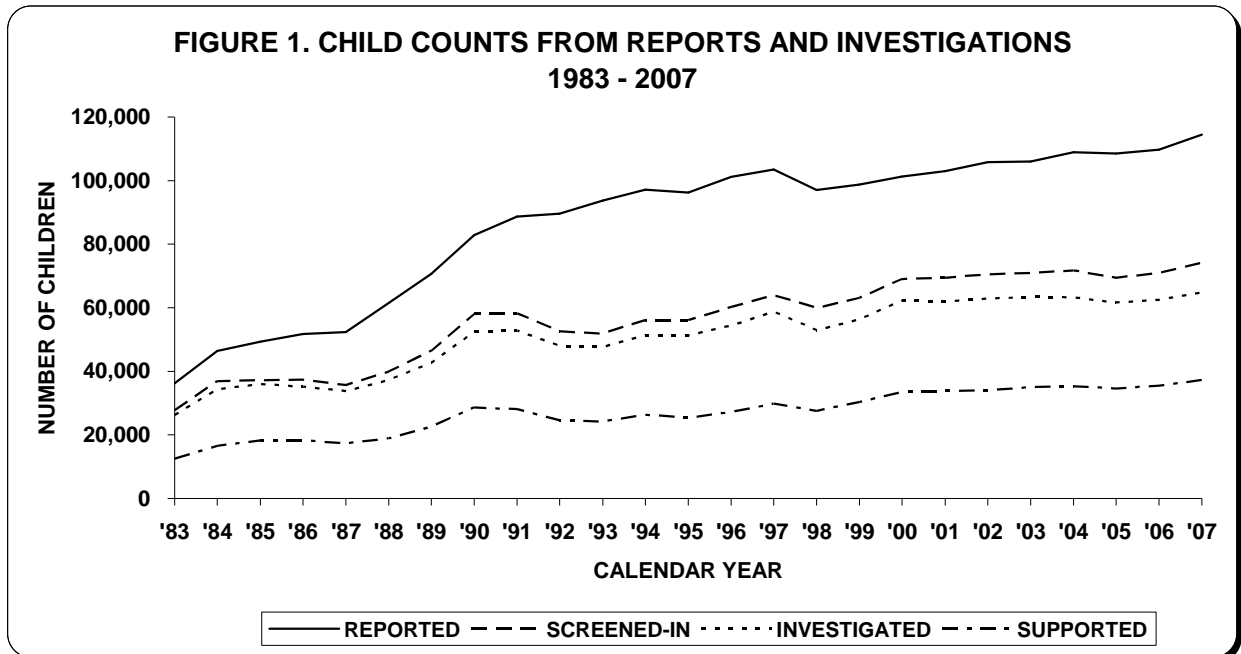
⁴ Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/cmp/cmp-risk-p-factors.htm)

CHILD MALTREATMENT STATISTICS

I. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 1983-2007

A. Statewide Trends

During 2007, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) received 74,880 reports of abuse and neglect. A total of 114,421 children were identified in these reports.⁵ Compared to 2006, this is a 4% increase in reported children (Fig.1, Table 1). There were also increases in the numbers of children in screened-in reports (4%), investigations (4%), and supported investigations (5%).⁶ The 4% gain in reported children from 2006 to 2007 followed an eight-year period (1998-2006) of slow but steady growth (13%) in reported children (Fig. 1, Table 1).



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

⁵This is a duplicated count since a child may have been reported more than once during 2007. Much of the duplication is due to multiple reports on the same incident. Removing duplication reduces the number of children by 33% to 76,747. The duplication percentage has ranged from 27-33% over the past 22 years. Appendix Table A1 provides duplicated and unduplicated counts of reported children by maltreatment type. Counts of reports by type of maltreatment are also included.

⁶ Please note that the number of children with investigations is lower than the number of children with screened-in reports. This occurs because an investigation may be associated to multiple reports on the same incident or by reports received on separate but closely occurring incidents.

Figure 1 discloses five periods of differing growth rates in the numbers of reported children. The most accelerated periods of growth occurred in 1983-1984 and 1987-1991 (Fig. 1). Increases in the numbers of reported children during the five growth periods were 28% from 1983-1984; 13% from 1984-1987; 69% from 1987-1991; 17% from 1991-1997; and 13% from 1998-2006 (Table 1).

Table 1. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 1983 - 2007

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Annual		Annual		Annual		Annual	
	Reported No.	Change %	Screened-In No.	Change %	Investigated No.	Change %	Supported No.	Change %
1983	36,258	--	27,740 (E)	--	26,204	--	12,518	--
1984	46,393	28%	36,869	33%	34,326	31%	16,515	32%
1985	49,320	6%	37,168	1%	35,971	5%	18,203	10%
1986	51,759	5%	37,429	1%	35,085	-2%	18,291	*
1987	52,391	1%	35,673	-5%	33,832	-4%	17,356	-5%
1988	61,506	17%	39,848	12%	37,229	10%	18,957	9%
1989	70,713	15%	46,456	17%	42,590	14%	22,532	19%
1990	82,831	17%	57,983	25%	52,492	23%	28,621	27%
1991	88,748	7%	58,218	*	52,853	1%	28,048	-2%
1992	89,592	1%	52,581	-10%	47,960	-9%	24,601	-12%
1993	93,752	5%	51,941	-1%	47,587	-1%	24,186	-2%
1994	97,210	4%	56,178	8%	51,452	8%	26,325	9%
1995	96,255	-1%	56,175	*	51,285	*	25,375	-4%
1996	101,180	5%	60,199	7%	54,403	6%	27,219	7%
1997	103,533	2%	64,008	6%	58,743	8%	29,815	10%
1998 **	97,108	-6%	59,939	-6%	52,899	-10%	27,559	-8%
1999	98,799	2%	63,128	5%	56,335	6%	30,349	10%
2000	101,364	3%	69,009	9%	62,234	10%	33,520	10%
2001	103,029	2%	69,505	1%	61,942	*	33,858	1%
2002	105,787	3%	70,531	1%	62,891	2%	34,011	*
2003	105,988	*	70,954	1%	63,505	1%	35,011	3%
2004	108,865	3%	71,741	1%	63,329	*	35,344	1%
2005	108,581	*	69,470	-3%	61,658	-3%	34,596	-2%
2006	109,785	1%	70,993	2%	62,483	1%	35,439	2%
2007	114,421	4%	74,143	4%	64,799	4%	37,209	5%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

** The decline in reported and investigated children in CY*1998 was partly related to data conversion problems that arose when DCF implemented a new management information system (FamilyNet) in February 1998.

(E) = Estimate

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is a subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Reporting groups that contributed the most to the 2006-2007 rise in reports of allegedly maltreated children were: law enforcement personnel, “other” mandated reporters, and school personnel (Appendix Table A2). Maltreated children reported by DCF social workers, law enforcement personnel, and medical professionals were more likely to be screened-in—screening rates of 76%, 73%, and 71%, respectively (Appendix Table A2).

Neglect accounted for the majority of reports to DCF. In 2007, 97,096 children were reported as alleged victims of neglect, 20,821 as physical abuse victims, and 7,260 as sexual abuse victims (Appendix Table A1). As a proportion of all children reported maltreated (114,421), neglect represented 85% of all reported children, physical abuse represented 18%, and sexual abuse represented 6%.⁷ From 2006 to 2007, the number of children with reported allegations of neglect rose 5% while physical abuse increased 1%, and sexual abuse dropped 2% (Appendix Tables A3-A5).

B. Screening and Support Rates

In Massachusetts, there are two stages in the report/investigation process where decisions are made that affect the influx of children to DCF (see chart on page xiv). At the first stage, a decision is made whether to screen-in a child based on information gathered from the reporter, DCF files, and any collateral contacts. The purpose of screening is to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect from a caretaker,⁸ and to distinguish the need for an emergency or non-emergency response.⁹

To ensure an appropriate response to reports, DCF employs specialized staff who have undergone training to prepare them as “screeners and investigators.” Screening decisions must be made as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after receiving a report. Before making a final decision, screeners are required to consult with their supervisor on all reports. As a further safeguard, any decision to screen out a report must be signed by the Area Director or designee.

Screen-in rates were at their highest level from 1983-1986; fluctuations ranged from 72-79% (see table on next page). The rates dipped to the 55-59% range during 1992-1996. From 1997 to 2007, the screen-in rate has ranged from 62-68%. Although the screening rate may decline from one year to the next, it does not necessarily mean a drop in the number of children screened-in since the number of children reported has continued to climb (Table 1).

⁷ The summation of counts (and percentages) for the different types of maltreatment do not sum to the total for all maltreatment since a child subjected to more than one type of maltreatment is counted in each maltreatment category, e.g., a neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused child would be counted once under the “all” maltreatment category, and once in each of the neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse categories.

⁸ DCF staff screen out reports where the alleged perpetrator is identified and is clearly a non-caretaker. However, DCF refers such cases to the DA if the allegations contained in the report fall into one of the categories under M.G.L. c. 119, sec. 51B (4). DCF also provides the reporter with the name, address, and telephone number of the local police and/or the appropriate DA.

⁹ In an emergency report, the screener has determined the reported condition poses a threat of immediate danger to the life, health, or physical safety of the child.

Calendar Year	Screen-In Rate	Calendar Year	Screen-In Rate
1983	77%	1996	59%
1984	79%	1997	62%
1985	75%	1998	62%
1986	72%	1999	64%
1987	68%	2000	68%
1988	65%	2001	67%
1989	66%	2002	67%
1990	70%	2003	67%
1991	66%	2004	66%
1992	59%	2005	64%
1993	55%	2006	65%
1994	58%	2007	65%
1995	58%		

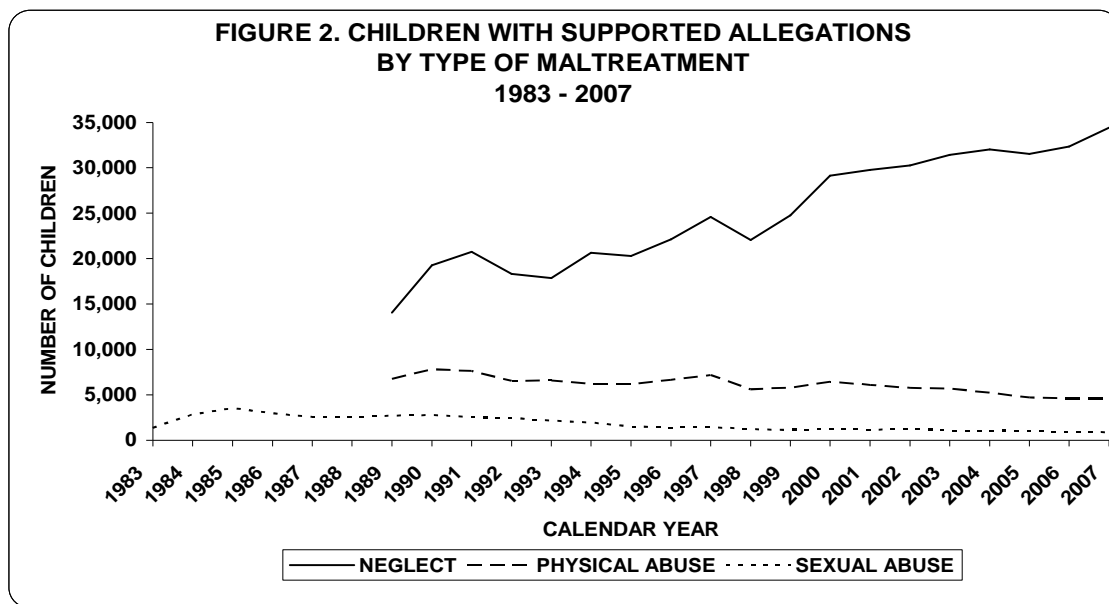
At the second stage, a decision is made whether to support the report of alleged maltreatment based on information collected during the investigation. The investigator determines: (1) the existence, nature, extent, and cause of the alleged abuse or neglect; (2) the identity of the person(s) alleged to be responsible, if possible; (3) the name, age, and condition of all other children in the same household; and (4) all other pertinent facts or matters which are deemed necessary to support or unsupport the allegation which was reported to DCF.

From 1983 to 2007, the percentage of children with investigations that resulted in a decision to support rose from 48% to 57% (see table below). This translates to 12,518 children with supported allegations of maltreatment in 1983 and 37,209 children with supported allegations in 2007 (Table 1 on page 2). There does not appear to be any relationship between support and screen-in rates. Over the years, the screen-in rate has fluctuated while the support rate has slowly increased.

Calendar Year	Support Rate	Calendar Year	Support Rate
1983	48%	1996	50%
1984	48%	1997	51%
1985	51%	1998	52%
1986	52%	1999	54%
1987	51%	2000	54%
1988	51%	2001	55%
1989	53%	2002	54%
1990	55%	2003	56%
1991	53%	2004	56%
1992	51%	2005	56%
1993	51%	2006	57%
1994	51%	2007	57%
1995	49%		

C. Type of Maltreatment Supported

Victimized children are the subjects of investigations where it has been determined that they have been maltreated (supported allegations). Figure 2 displays counts of victimized children by type of maltreatment from 1983 to 2007.¹⁰ Neglect is clearly the driving force behind the sustained growth in child maltreatment over the years. Physical abuse and sexual abuse have been declining for most of the past 17 and 22 years, respectively. (Appendix Tables A3-A5)



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year. Data for neglect and physical abuse are not available prior to 1989 due to a change in definitions partway through 1988.

The continued decline in sexual abuse is a national phenomenon (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004).¹¹ Escalating numbers of sexually abused children during the 1980s were followed by declining numbers during the 1990s (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004). Researchers believe that multiple factors are responsible for the decrease in reports and substantiations of sexual abuse. However, there is no clear consensus as to which factors are involved and to what degree they contributed to the decline. One factor may be an actual decline in the incidence of sexual abuse (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004). Other factors may be changes in the practices of mandated reporters and the child protective system (Finkelhor and Jones 2001 and 2004).

¹⁰ See duplicated child counts in Appendix Tables A3-A5.

¹¹ Jones, L. and D. Finkelhor. 2001. The Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* (January). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 12pp.

Finkelhor, D. and L. Jones. 2004. Explanations for the Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* (January). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 24pp.

In Massachusetts, there has also been a dramatic decline in the number of sexually abused children (Fig. 3A). From 1990 to 2007, the number of children with supported allegations of sexual abuse dropped 69% (Fig. 3A, Appendix Table A5). Substantial declines occurred across all ages, but most significantly among the youngest children (table below and Fig. 3A). As a result, the largest age group among sexually abused children shifted from 3-5 years in 1990-1997 to 12-14 years in 2002-2007 (Figure 3B).

Sexually Abused Children

Age Group (years)	%Change from 1990 to 2007
0 – 2	-94%
3 – 5	-83%
6 – 8	-71%
9 – 11	-62%
12 – 14	-52%
15 – 17	-50%
Total	-69%

Children with supported allegations of sexual abuse following an investigation.

FIGURE 3A. CHILD COUNTS BY AGE GROUP FROM INVESTIGATIONS OF SUPPORTED SEXUAL ABUSE: 1990 - 2007

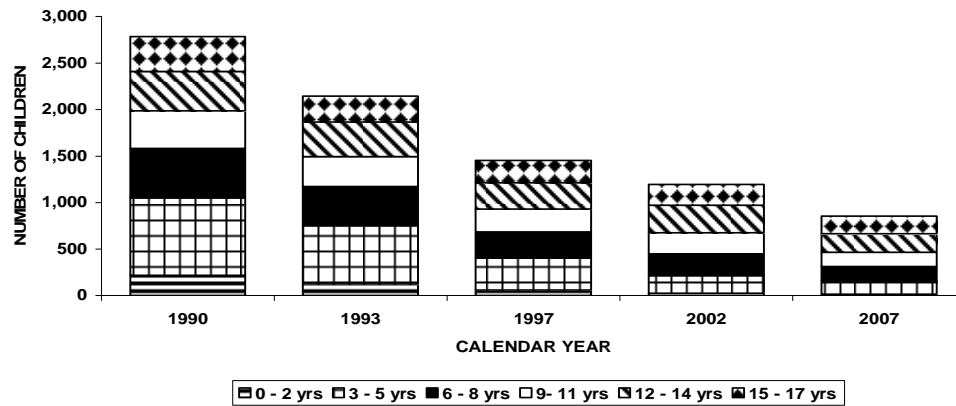
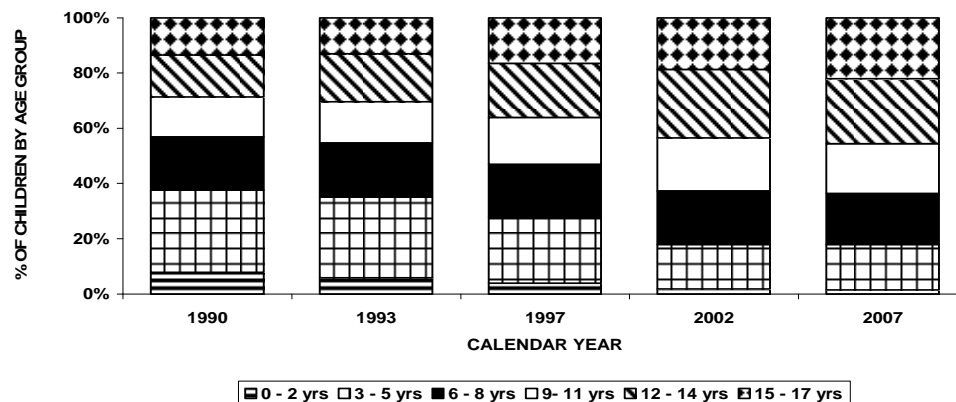


FIGURE 3B. PROPORTIONS OF CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP FROM INVESTIGATIONS OF SUPPORTED SEXUAL ABUSE: 1990 - 2007



Nationally, Finkelhor and Jones (2004) reported a 40% decline in identified sexual abuse cases from 1992 to 2000. Thirty-nine of 49 states had a decline of 30% percent or more in substantiated cases of sexual abuse from their peak year to 2000. Nineteen of these states had declines of more than 50% in their sexual abuse caseloads.

Figures 4A – 4C (on page 8) display annual counts of children from reports, screened-in reports, and supported investigations of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse spanning the 1980s to 2007. For both neglect and physical abuse, annual counts of children reported and screened-in mirror the counts of children supported—upward trend for neglect and downward trend for physical abuse. However, annual counts of children with reported allegations of sexual abuse are not a reflection of children with screened-in and supported investigations. Over the years, children with screened-in reports and children with supported investigations of sexual abuse clearly show a downward trend while the number of children with reported allegations was either increasing or constant. Consequently, the decline in children with reported allegations of sexual abuse was not due to a decrease in reporting. The drop in sexually abused children seems to be related to a change in the screening and investigation processes. Although there was a decrease in sexually abused children of all ages, the decline was greatest for the youngest children (Figs. 3A and 3B).

The table below contains a complete set of statistics for the years 2000 to 2007 (Appendix Table A5). The number of reported children fluctuated over the eight year period while the screen-in rate dropped from 55% to 41%. The declining screen-in rate resulted in declining numbers of investigated children. The support rate was stable over the period, so the declining number of children with supported allegations was the result of the dwindling screen-in rate.

Children with Sexual Abuse Allegations Reported, Screened-In, Investigated, & Supported

Year	Reported	Screen-in Rate	Screened-In	Investigated	Support Rate	Supported
2000	6826	55%	3772	3496	35%	1216
2001	6874	52%	3559	3221	36%	1152
2002	7865	49%	3835	3470	35%	1210
2003	7243	47%	3430	3066	34%	1057
2004	7693	45%	3489	3090	34%	1052
2005	7692	43%	3272	2956	33%	976
2006	7381	44%	3223	2804	34%	956
2007	7260	41%	3003	2605	33%	853

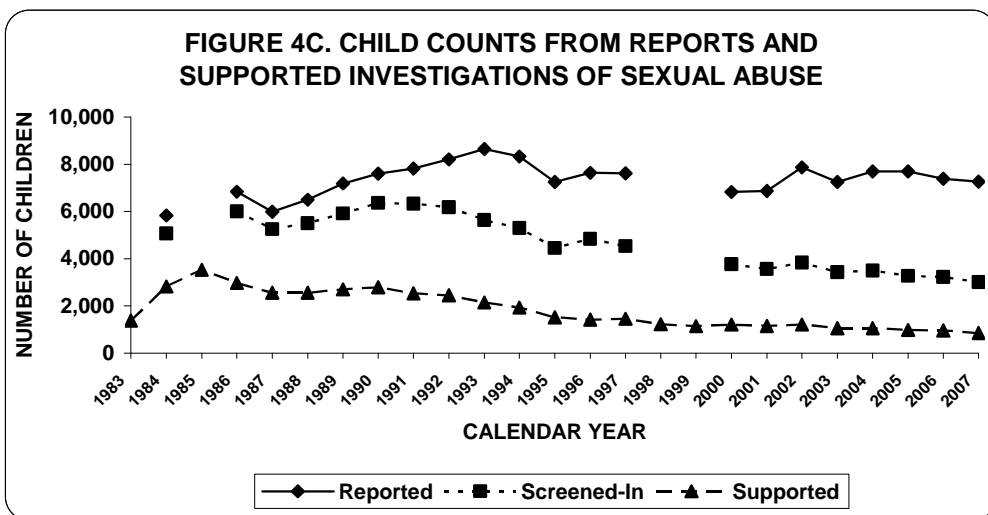
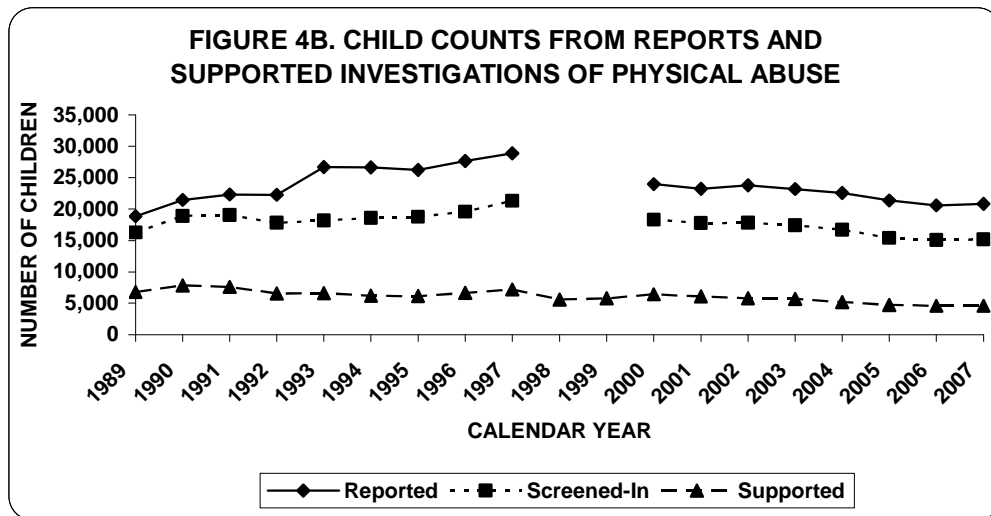
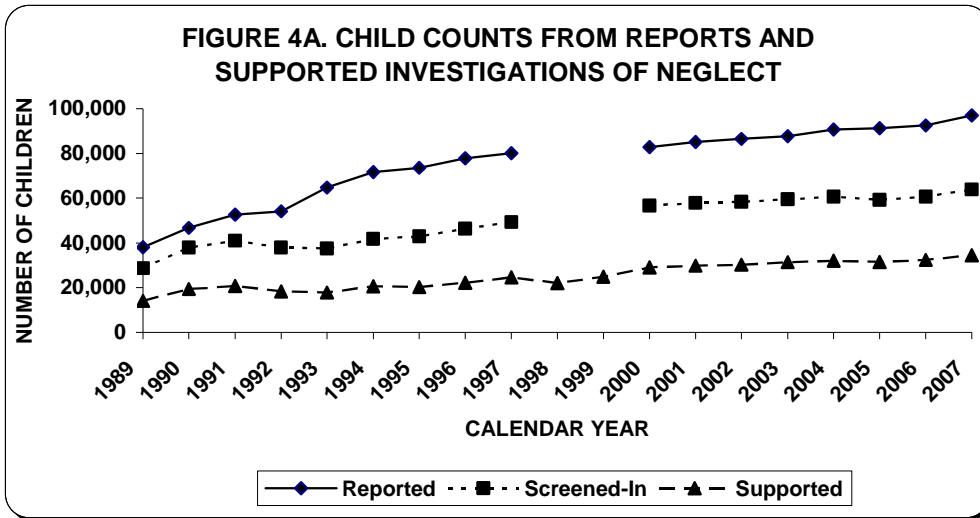
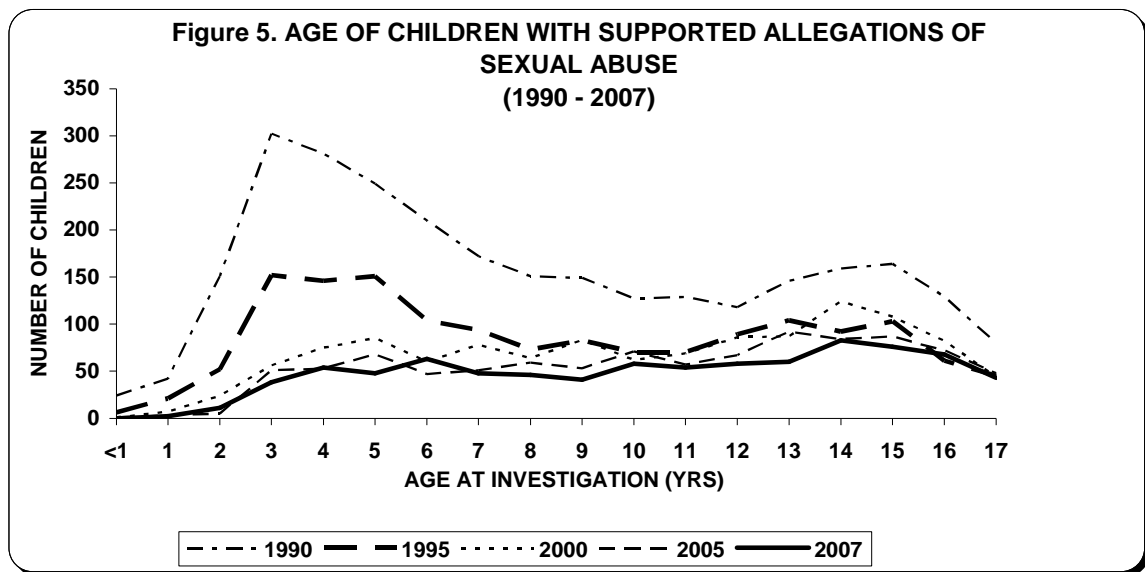


Figure 5 displays the number and age of children sexually abused in 1990-2007. From 1990 to 1995, there was a reduction in the numbers of sexually abused children across all ages. This decline was most distinct among younger children, especially those age 2 to 8 years. From 1995 to 2000, the numbers of children 7 years or older showed little change, while the numbers of children between 2 and 6 years old continued to drop significantly. From 2000 to 2007, the overall numbers of sexually abused children continued to decline but at a much lower rate.



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

The drop in children with supported allegations of sexual abuse (especially among 2-7 year old children) may be due in part to the difficulty in proving it has occurred (unless there is physical evidence). A young child's inability to adequately verbalize what had occurred, the fear of punishment from threatening adults, the anxiety from the investigation process, and other factors may cause a child to recant or stop talking about the incident. A study by Smith and colleagues (1995)¹² showed that the outcome of sexual abuse cases was highly dependent on the victim's testimony. In most cases, sexual abuse is not seen by witnesses. Furthermore, family members and relatives are often in disbelief and denial that sexual abuse has occurred. There is also little physical evidence in many incidents of sexual molestation. Under such circumstances, Smith and colleagues found there was greater difficulty substantiating cases involving younger children.

¹² Smith, S.L., Q.E. Sullivan, and A.H. Cohen. 1995. Factors Associated with the Indication of Child Abuse Reports. *Journal of Social Service Research* 21:15-34.

In January 1998, the DCF Office of the General Counsel issued guidelines for investigators in response to increased judicial scrutiny of children's statements and the expectation that (DCF) investigations meet high standards of reliability. The guidelines enumerate factors pertinent to the credibility of the child's disclosures that should be documented in all child sexual abuse investigations.¹³

¹³ From "Office of the General Counsel provides sexual abuse investigations guidelines," a news item appearing in "Moving Forward," Vol. 7, No. 2 (January 22, 1998)—a DCF publication.

II. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations: 2007

A. Report Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

Of the 114,421 reported children in 2007, 65% were screened-in, 7% as needing an emergency response and 57% as non-emergencies (Table 2). The percentage of screened-in children ranged from 59% in the Metro DCF Region¹⁴ to 71% in the Northeastern Region (Table 2). Boston had the highest proportion of reported children who were screened-in as an emergency (9%). An analysis of emergency screen-ins by reporting group indicated that law enforcement personnel encountered more children in high-risk situations. Eighteen percent of the children reported to DCF by law enforcement personnel had their reports screened-in as emergencies. “Self-reporting children” was the only other reporting group with a higher percentage of emergency screen-ins—24%. Fifteen percent of the children reported by medical professionals were screened-in as emergencies.

Table 2. Counts of Children in Reports by DCF Region and Screening Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Service Region	Child Counts ¹								Total Children Reported	
	Screened-In		Screened-In		Screened-Out		Screened-Out			
	Non-Emergency		Emergency		Screened-Out		DA Referral			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
West	15,563	56%	1,823	7%	9,863	35%	542	2%	27,791	100%
Central	8,882	54%	1,152	7%	5,881	36%	398	2%	16,313	100%
Northeast	11,459	64%	1,295	7%	4,630	26%	658	4%	18,042	100%
Metro	8,341	51%	1,297	8%	6,306	39%	425	3%	16,369	100%
Southeast	14,022	59%	1,705	7%	7,654	32%	224	1%	23,605	100%
Boston	7,366	61%	1,099	9%	3,239	27%	416	3%	12,120	100%
Unspecified	111	61%	28	15%	39	22%	3	2%	181	100%
Total	65,744	57%	8,399	7%	37,612	33%	2,666	2%	114,421	100%

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

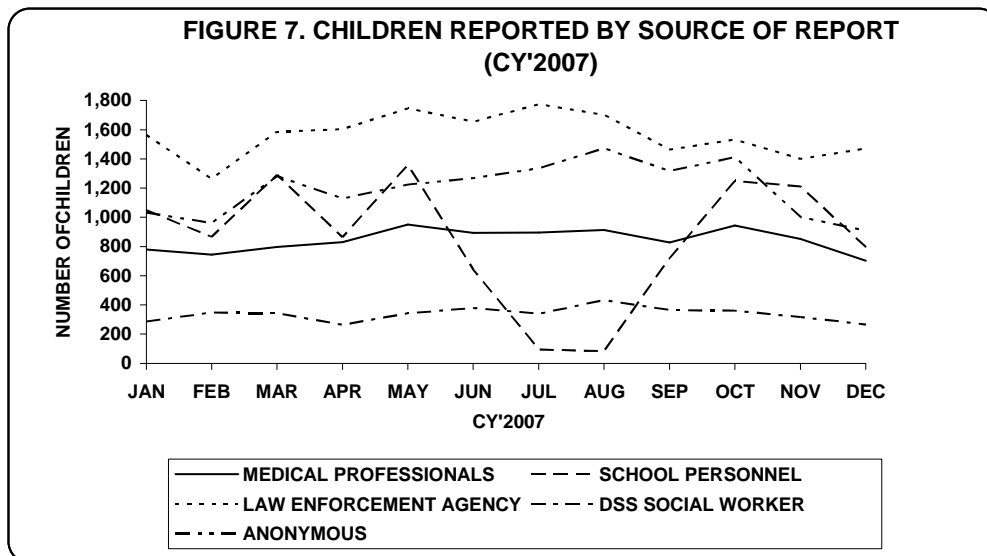
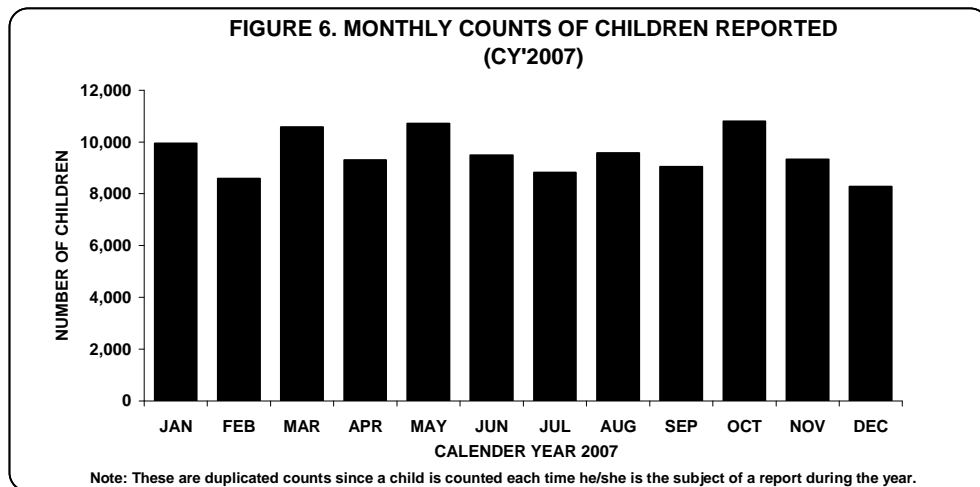
In 2007, sixty-nine percent of the children reported by mandated¹⁵ sources were screened-in compared to 56% for nonmandated and 52% for anonymous (Appendix Table A2). Reporting groups with the highest screen-in rates were: DCF social workers (76%), victimized children (74%), law enforcement agency personnel (73%), medical personnel (71%), and school personnel (67%) (Appendix Table A2). There was not much difference in reporting-group rates compared to last year (CY'2006).

¹⁴ Massachusetts is divided into six DCF service regions: West, Central, Northeast, Metro, Southeast, and Boston.

¹⁵ Refer to M.G.L. c. 119, s. 51A for a description of mandated reporters.

Anonymous sources reported a high number of children (14,344), but they had relatively low screen-in rate (52%) (Appendix Table A2). “Other” Substitute Care Provider (group home and residential) had the next lowest screen-in rate—51%. Mothers and fathers in-the-home and out-of-the-home were the only reporting groups with screen-in rates below 50% (ranged from 40% to 49%). The number of children reported by law enforcement agencies (18,761) exceeded the number reported by anonymous callers (see above). Other reporting groups who reported high numbers of children were school personnel (10,227) and medical professionals (10,128).

Reports of maltreatment were highest in March, May, and October (Fig. 6). The major reporting groups during these three months were law enforcement agencies, school personnel, and anonymous callers (Fig. 7). July and August were distinguishable by a virtual absence of reporting from schools. Although the level of reporting by medical professionals and DCF social workers was lower than the other reporting groups, it was fairly stable throughout the year (Fig. 7).



B. Investigation Disposition: DCF Regions and Statewide

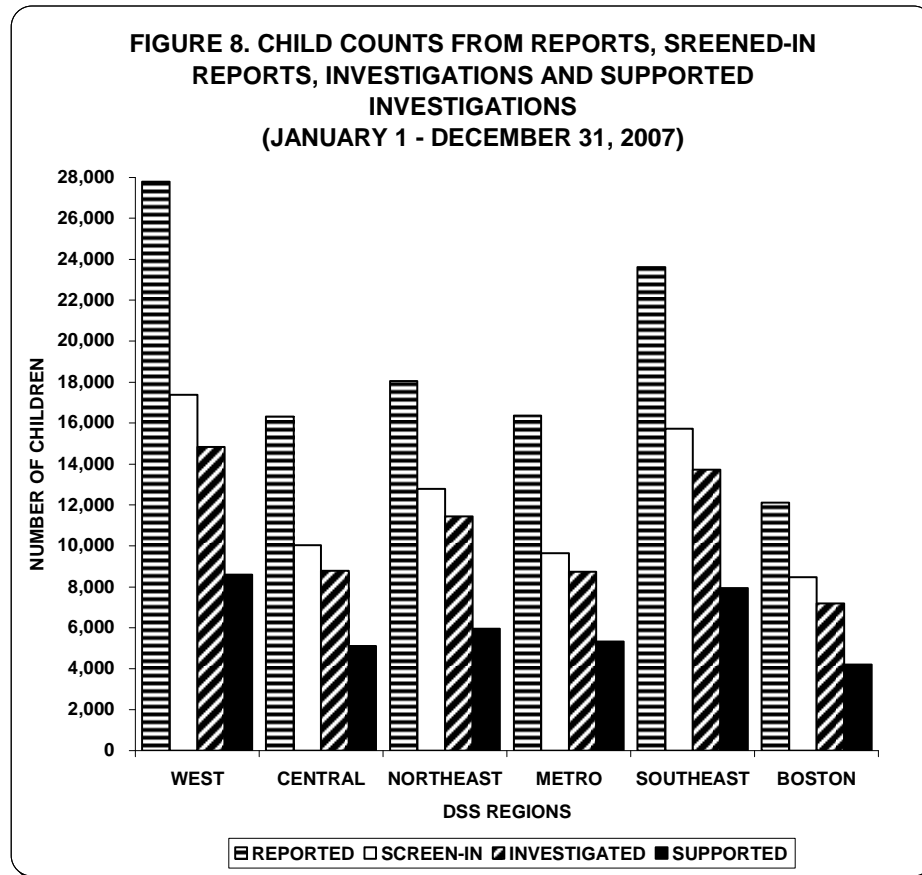
In CY'2007, DCF conducted 40,535 investigations of alleged maltreatment involving 64,799 children. Of these children, 37,209 (57%) were found to have been victimized (children with supported allegations).¹⁶ The Western and Southeastern Regions had the highest numbers of children who were subjects of investigations (Table 3, Fig. 8 on next page). Among regions, Boston had the lowest volume of children with allegations investigated (and reported). The Northeast had the highest screen-in rate (71%) and the lowest support rate (52%) (Tables 2 and 3). In contrast, Metro had the lowest screen-in rate (59%) and the highest support rate (61%).

Table 3. Counts of Children in Investigations by DCF Region and Investigation Decision during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Service Region	Child Counts ¹				Total Children Investigated	
	Supported		Unsupported		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
West	8,602	58%	6,223	42%	14,825	100%
Central	5,121	58%	3,662	42%	8,783	100%
Northeast	5,957	52%	5,480	48%	11,437	100%
Metro	5,339	61%	3,394	39%	8,733	100%
Southeast	7,936	58%	5,780	42%	13,716	100%
Boston	4,204	58%	2,998	42%	7,202	100%
Unspecified	50	49%	53	51%	103	100%
Total	37,209	57%	27,590	43%	64,799	100%

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

¹⁶ These are **duplicated counts** since a child is counted each time he/she was the subject of an investigation during 2007. Removing duplication reduces the number of children with supported investigations by 10% to 33,435. The duplication percentage has ranged from 7-11% over the past 22 years. Appendix Table A1 provides duplicated and unduplicated counts of children who were the subjects of investigations by type of maltreatment. NOTE: The term "supported" is equivalent to "substantiated" which was used in statistical reports produced before 1988.



NOTE: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

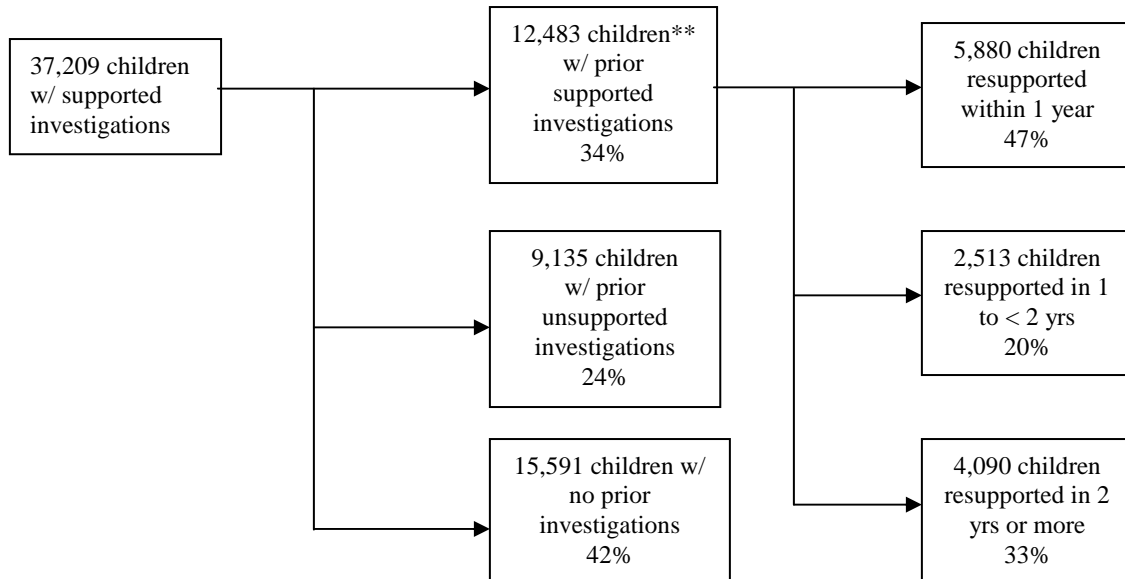
C. Recidivism: Children with Supported Allegations

There were 23,337 supported investigations involving 37,209 children in 2007.¹⁷ Forty-two percent of these children had no prior investigation, 34% had a prior supported investigation, and 24% had a prior unsupported investigation (see diagram on next page). The table on the following page displays the time that elapsed from the prior investigation to the current supported investigation. The recidivism distribution over the specified time periods showed little difference for children with prior supported or unsupported investigations. Recidivism time does not appear to be affected by whether a child had a prior supported investigation or an unsupported investigation.

¹⁷ A duplicated count since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a supported investigation during 2007.

Maltreatment Recidivism	Children with Supported Investigations			
	Prior Support		Prior Unsupport	
Time from Prior Support/Unsupport to Current Support	No.	%	No.	%
1 to < 30 days	625	5%	729	8%
30 to < 60 days	648	5%	569	6%
60 to < 90 days	750	6%	513	6%
90 days to < 6 months	1561	13%	1111	12%
6 months to < 1 year	2296	18%	1629	18%
1 to < 1.5 years	1511	12%	1045	11%
1.5 to < 2 years	1002	8%	675	7%
2 to < 5 years	2845	23%	2150	24%
5 or more years	1245	10%	713	8%
Unknown	----	----	1	*
Total	12483	100%	9135	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off



** 12,483 children with prior supported investigations represent 11,112 unique individuals

D. Geographic Distribution of Child Maltreatment

1. Reporting and Victimization Rates by Incorporated City and Town

The numbers of reported children by city and town of residence are presented in Appendix Tables A6 to A8.¹⁸ To compare the incidence of maltreatment among cities and towns of differing population sizes, unduplicated counts of reported children were converted to rates--number of reported children per 1,000 children less than 18 years old residing in a particular area.¹⁹ Reported incidence unlike substantiated (supported) incidence is more likely to represent a consistent portion of true incidence (Zuravin and Taylor 1987).²⁰

In 1997, the maltreatment reporting rate for Massachusetts was 50.4 reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old (Felix 1998).²¹ Ten years later, the statewide reporting rate for Massachusetts in 2007 was 51.2. The victimization rate in Massachusetts was 22.3 victimized children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Victimized children were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

The municipalities²² listed on the next page had more than 300 (unduplicated count) resident children reported as maltreated in 2007 (Appendix Table A6). In 2007, North Adams had the highest reporting rate, followed by Holyoke, Pittsfield, and Springfield. There were 28 cities/towns with a higher reporting rate than Boston. The reporting rates of 31 cities/towns (table on next page) were higher than the statewide reporting rate. Although high reporting rates indicate a high incidence of maltreatment, they may also reflect a high public awareness within the geographic area.

The top six municipalities with the highest reporting rates also had the highest victimization rates (Appendix Table A8):

City/Town	Reporting Rate	Victimization Rate	City/Town	Reporting Rate	Victimization Rate
North Adams	165.4	63.4	Springfield	120.1	55.9
Holyoke	137.4	69.6	New Bedford	116.9	63.3
Pittsfield	132.6	57.5	Southbridge	106.3	52.0

¹⁸ **Selected cities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children reported as having been maltreated.**

¹⁹ City/town population of resident children less 18 years old in Massachusetts from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov).

²⁰ Zuravin, S.J. and R. Taylor. 1987. The Ecology of Child Maltreatment: Identifying and Characterizing High Risk Neighborhoods. Child Welfare 66:497-506.

²¹ Felix, A.C. , III. 1998. Massachusetts Child Maltreatment Statistics, January 1 – December 31, 1997. Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA. 73pp.

²² Data are compiled by incorporated cities and towns. Within each incorporated city/town, the counts of maltreated children from all villages and sections were combined.

Municipality Reporting Rates

North Adams	165.4	Brockton	78.5	Beverly	50.6
Holyoke	137.4	Salem	72.3	Attleboro	50.5
Pittsfield	132.6	Lynn	71.8	Barnstable	49.8
Springfield	120.1	Chelsea	70.5	Waltham	48.9
New Bedford	116.9	Lowell	70.1	Peabody	48.5
Southbridge	106.3	West Springfield	69.1	Falmouth	48.3
Greenfield	102.9	Wareham	69.0	Marlborough	48.2
Fitchburg	92.3	Leominster	64.6	Randolph	46.2
Chicopee	89.3	Revere	63.0	Framingham	45.7
Fall River	86.5	Taunton	61.8	Methuen	44.2
Lawrence	84.1	Malden	58.5	Woburn	43.6
Haverhill	81.7	Westfield	57.8	Somerville	42.8
Gardner	80.7	Boston	56.0	Plymouth	41.9
Worcester	79.7	Quincy	54.7	Weymouth	41.8
Webster	79.4	Gloucester	52.4	Cambridge	36.4
Everett	79.0	STATE	51.2	Medford	36.2
NOTE: Cities/towns with more than 300 reported children.				Newton	18.9

2. Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors

City/town reporting rates are listed in Appendix Tables A6 and A7 relative to some demographic and socioeconomic factors that have been associated with child maltreatment by various researchers. To further examine the relationship between these demographic/socioeconomic variables and maltreatment reporting, statistics are displayed below for two groups. One group is comprised of 6 municipalities²³ with the highest reporting rates in the above table. The second group represents 6 cities/towns²⁴ with the lowest reporting rates in the above table.

INDICATOR	6 CITIES/TOWNS w/HIGHEST REPORTING RATES		6 CITIES/TOWNS w/LOWEST REPORTING RATES	
	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE
Reporting Rate ²⁵	106.3 - 165.4	129.8	18.9 - 42.8	36.3
%Households w/Public Assistance Income ²⁶	3.6% - 11.2%	7.2%	1.4% - 2.2%	1.8%
Median Family Income	\$35,708 - \$46,228	\$38,975	\$51,243 - \$105,289	\$67,619
Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Children ²⁷	16.2% - 33.9%	25.2%	3.9% - 13.0%	7.9%
Below Poverty Level: %Families w/Single Female & Children ²⁸	40.1% - 55.1%	47.9%	11.9% - 31.6%	22.5%
%Unemployed	4.5% - 7.6%	6.3%	3.0% - 5.0%	3.8%
Teen Birth Rate ²⁹	35.3 - 94.8	65.8	2.3 - 18.6	11.8

²³ Highest: North Adams, Holyoke, Pittsfield, Springfield, New Bedford, Southbridge

²⁴ Lowest: Newton, Medford, Cambridge, Weymouth, Plymouth, Somerville

²⁵ Number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years

²⁶ Households with public assistance income as a percent of all households

²⁷ Percent of all families with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level

²⁸ Percent of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years who were below poverty level

²⁹ Number of births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years

These factors should not be viewed as causes of child maltreatment but as indicators of potential risk.

The reporting rates on the preceding page (and Appendix Tables A6-A8) are computed from combined counts of all types of reported maltreatment. Since 87% (66,775 of 76,747 from Appendix Table A1)³⁰ of the children reported in 2007 were allegedly neglected,³¹ these rates are more a reflection of neglect than the less frequently occurring physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Among the cities and towns listed in Appendix Tables A6 and A7, those with the most extreme poverty/stress indicator values are:

- Holyoke 33.9%, Springfield 29.4%, Lawrence 26.7%, North Adams 25.9%, and New Bedford 25.3% of all families with related children less than 18 years old were below poverty level vs. 10.1% statewide and 13.6% nationwide
- Holyoke 55.1%, North Adams 53.1%, New Bedford 49.6%, Springfield 47.5%, and Greenfield 46.8% of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years were below poverty level vs. 31.2% statewide and 34.3% nationwide
- Holyoke 94.8, Springfield 80.7, Lawrence 80.6, Chelsea 79.0, and New Bedford 70.1 live births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years vs. 21.3 statewide
- Holyoke 11.2%, Lawrence 9.0%, Springfield 8.6%, and Chelsea 7.3%, and New Bedford 7.1% of all households were receiving public assistance vs. 2.9% statewide and 3.4% nationwide
- Lawrence 8.9%, Fall River 8.3%, New Bedford 7.6%, Springfield 7.0%, and Holyoke 6.7% of the labor force was unemployed vs. 4.5% statewide and 4.6% nationwide
- Lawrence \$31,809, Chelsea \$32,130, New Bedford \$35,708, Holyoke \$36,130, and Springfield \$36,285 family median income vs. \$61,664 statewide and \$50,046 nationwide

Socioeconomic and demographic factors strongly influence child maltreatment rates. At the city/town level of analysis, the degree to which these indicators are masked (including the maltreatment rate) is dependent on the diversity of the communities--the mixture of affluent and poor neighborhoods.

³⁰ Unduplicated counts of reported children from Appendix Table A1

³¹ Neglect was recorded as one of the reported maltreatment conditions.

E. Type of Child Maltreatment Reported and Investigated

1. Report and Investigation Disposition by Type of Maltreatment

Of the 114,421 children with reports of alleged maltreatment during 2007, 65% had their reports screened-in. Screen-in rates varied for specific types of maltreatment: 73% for physical abuse, 66% for neglect, and 41% for sexual abuse (see table below). A total of 64,799 children were the subjects of investigations of alleged maltreatment; 57% of these children were victimized (supported allegations). As with screen-in rates, support rates differed by type of maltreatment: 60% for neglect and 33% for both physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Screening and Support Rates by Type of Maltreatment		
<i>Type of Maltreatment</i>	Child Counts	
	<i>Children Reported</i> % w/ <i>Screened-In Allegations</i>	<i>Children Investigated</i> % w/ <i>Supported Allegations</i>
All	65%	57%
Neglect	66%	60%
Physical Abuse	73%	33%
Sexual Abuse	41%	33%

Screen-in and support rates differed by 6% for neglect and 8% for sexual abuse (above table). The difference in the rates was significantly greater for physical abuse—40%. Compared to other forms of maltreatment, a child with a reported allegation of physical abuse was more likely to be screened-in. However, at the investigation level, allegations of physical abuse (and sexual abuse) were much less likely than neglect to be supported. Sexual abuse allegations were the least likely to be screened-in and supported.

2. Report Source and Type of Maltreatment Reported

Counts of children reported by type of maltreatment and reporter are presented in Appendix Table A9. Neglect was the major form of maltreatment with 97,096 reported children compared to 20,821 for physical abuse, and 7,260 for sexual abuse.

Children reported by mandated sources exceeded children reported by nonmandated for all forms of maltreatment (Appendix Table A9). Mandated sources reported 69%, 79%, and 86% of all children reported as neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused, respectively (Table A9). Medical professionals were the primary reporters of sexual abuse (Table A9). Physical abuse was most frequently reported by school personnel. Law enforcement agencies were the leading reporters of neglect. Several factors contribute to the greater numbers of children reported by mandated sources: (1) they are required by law to report incidents of child maltreatment, (2) they have more opportunities to observe children because of the nature of their jobs, and (3) they are more likely to have received training in the recognition and reporting of maltreated children.

Reports are screened-in when there is reason to believe that a child has been maltreated or may be at risk of maltreatment by a caretaker. Depending on the urgency, a screened-in report is designated an emergency or non-emergency. For screened-in emergency reports, an investigation must be completed within 24 hours after receiving the report. Investigations prompted by non-emergency reports must be completed within 10 calendar days.

As expected, the mandated reporting group had higher screen-in rates for neglect and physical abuse than the nonmandated and anonymous reporting groups (Appendix A9 and table below). However, nonmandated and anonymous reporters had higher screen-in rates for sexual abuse than mandated reporters. Reporters with the highest screen-in rates are presented below (and Appendix Table A9).

Report Source Screen-in Rates			
<i>Report Source</i>	<i>Neglect</i>	<i>Physical Abuse</i>	<i>Sexual Abuse</i>
Mandated	71%	75%	41%
Nonmandated	56%	68%	46%
Anonymous	52%	63%	46%
All Sources	66%	73%	41%

Reporter Screen-in Rates					
<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
DCF Social Worker	78%	DCF Social Worker	80%	Father-in-Home	58%
Self (Victim)	77%	Self (Victim)	80%	Other Relative	50%
Law Enforcement Agency	75%	School Personnel	79%	DCF Social Worker	49%
Medical Professional	74%	Other Relative	79%	Other Nonmandated	49%

3. Biological Mothers of Reported Children and Type of Maltreatment Reported

Of the 114,421 children reported to DCF, the relationship to their mother (biological, adoptive, step, and foster) was known for 76,963 of the children. Ninety-eight percent of these identified mothers were biological mothers. Only the children with bio-mothers (75,673) were used in the following analysis.

Comparing the age³² and marital status distributions of bio-mothers by type of alleged maltreatment, showed a tendency towards younger, single mothers of neglected children (Appendix Table A10 and table below). For neglect, a greater proportion of mothers spanned the ages 20 to 29 years while other maltreatment types had greater proportions of mothers in the 40 to 49 year age range (Table A10).

Alleged Maltreatment	Bio-Mother	
	Age	Marital Status
Neglect	33% were 20-29 years old	58% were single
Physical Abuse	29% were 20-29 years old	53% were single
Sexual Abuse	23% were 20-29 years old	51% were single

Race and Hispanic origin by type of alleged maltreatment did not reveal any tendencies (Appendix Table A10).

Restricting this analysis to mother's age at the time of the maltreatment is deceptive. If the age of mothers at the birth of their oldest child is examined, teenage mothers become a major component. Zuravin (1988)³³ pointed out that the risk of teenage mothers maltreating their children was not an immediate risk but a delayed risk. A mother's progression from "young age at first birth" to child maltreatment has been linked to chronic stressors such as: low economic status, low self-esteem, single parenthood, lack of social support, unemployment, low educational achievement, and an unmanageable number of children.

Depending on the type of maltreatment, up to 3% of the mothers with allegedly maltreated children in 2007 were teenagers (12-19 years old) (Appendix Table A11 and table below). However, the teenage component rose to 41-47% when age was determined at the birth of their oldest child (Table A11). Median age of mothers went from 33-35 years in 2007 to 20 years when their oldest child was born. These data appear to support the observations of others that child maltreatment by teenage mothers may be delayed rather than immediate.

Type of Maltreatment	% Teen Mothers	
	2007	At Birth of Oldest Child
Neglect	3%	47%
Physical Abuse	2%	45%
Sexual Abuse	< 1%	41%

³² Age of mother at time of report

³³ Zuravin, S.J. 1988. Child Maltreatment and Teenage First Births: A Relationship Mediated by Chronic Sociodemographic Stress? American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 58:91-103

F. Type of Child Maltreatment Supported

1. Distribution of Victimized Children: DCF Regions and Statewide

After one or more reports dealing with a particular incident are screened-in for a child, an investigation of the alleged maltreatment is conducted. A decision to “support” is reached if DCF finds reason to believe that a child was maltreated or was at high risk of maltreatment by a caretaker. After a determination to support, a protective case is opened for each family requiring services that was not in the DCF caseload at the time of the report. These newly opened cases include families unknown to DCF as well as families with previously closed cases. A description of investigation outcomes for children with supported investigations is provided on page 28.

Neglect was the most prevalent form of maltreatment. A total of 34,398 children (92% of all maltreated children)³⁴ were found to have been neglected (Table 4). There were 4,593 physically abused children and 853 sexually abused children (12% and 2% of all maltreated children, respectively).³⁵ Among DCF Regions, the West and Southeast had greater numbers of neglected children (Table 4). This is expected since the West and Southeast conduct the most investigations. Sexually abused children were more concentrated in the West and Southeast as well as Central. Physically abused children were more prominent in the Southeastern, Central, and Northeastern Regions.

Table 4. Victimized Children¹ by Type of Maltreatment and DCF Service Region during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Service Region	Child Counts by Type of Maltreatment ²					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
West	8,232	24%	671	15%	189	22%
Central	4,596	13%	882	19%	190	22%
Northeast	5,413	16%	879	19%	103	12%
Metro	5,077	15%	548	12%	88	10%
Southeast	7,356	21%	866	19%	183	21%
Boston	3,675	11%	745	16%	100	12%
Unspecified	49	*	2	*	---	---
Total	34,398	100%	4,593	100%	853	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

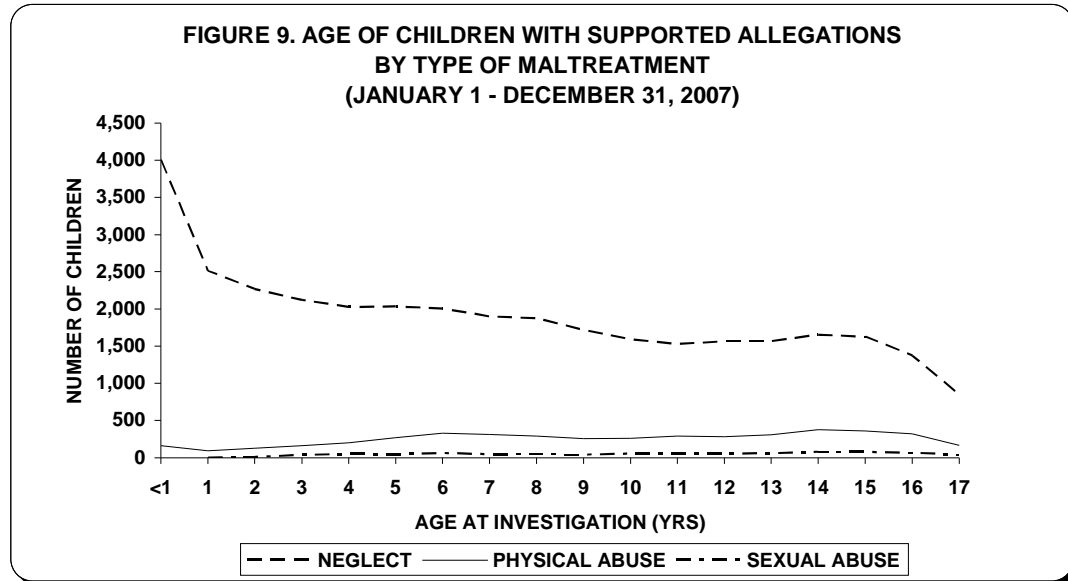
² These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

³⁴ 34,398 neglected children out of 37,209 total maltreated children (children with supported allegations following an investigation)

³⁵ Adding the percentages for neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse does not yield 100% since children subjected to more than one form of maltreatment are counted in each maltreatment category.

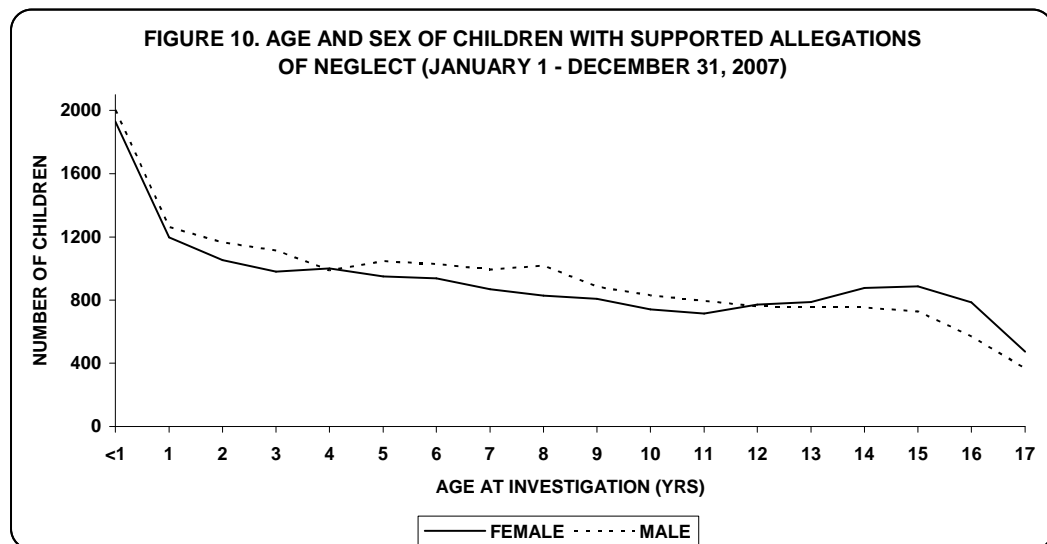
2. Age, Gender, and Race of Victimized Children

Figure 9 displays the age distributions of neglected, physically abused, and sexually abused children. It depicts the high volume of neglected children compared to physically abused and sexually abused children.

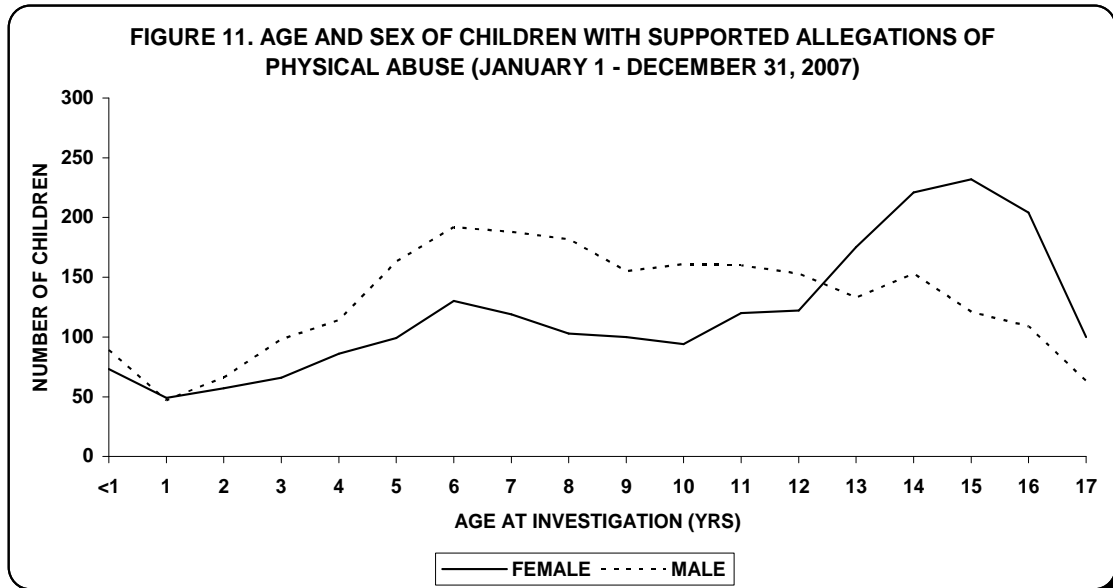


NOTE: Child counts from investigations that resulted in supported allegations.

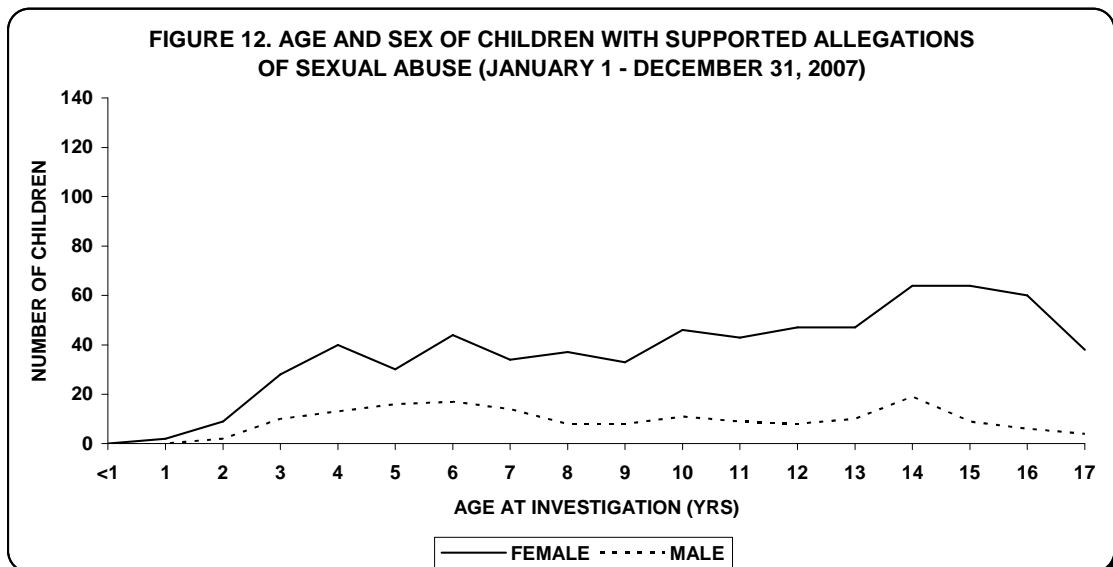
Males accounted for 50% of the children with supported allegations of neglect (48% females, 2% unknown). The distributions of girls and boys across all ages were similar--highest at ages under one year and gradually diminishing with increasing age (Fig. 10). However, there was a resurgence in girls between the ages of 13 and 16. Forty-five percent of neglected children were White, 22% were Hispanic, and 12% were Black (Appendix Table A12).



Fifty-one percent of physically abused children were male (47% female, 2% unknown). Boys outnumbered girls at ages 12 years and younger (Fig. 11). At ages 13 and older, girls were more numerous than boys. The number of female victims peaked at 15 years old. Male victims were highest at 6 years. Thirty-five percent of physically abused children were White, 27% were Hispanic, and 17% were Black (Appendix Table A12).



Sexually abused children were mostly female—78% (19% male, 3% unknown). The number of girls with supported allegations exceeded the number of boys at all ages (Fig. 12). Female victims were most numerous at ages 14-16 years. The number of male victims peaked at 5-6 years old and 14 years old. Forty percent of sexually abused children were White, 22% were Hispanic, and 9% were Black (Table A12).



- Comparing the age distributions of victimized boys and girls showed that during the adolescent years more girls than boys were physically abused, sexually abused, and neglected (Figs. 10-12).
- Approximately equal numbers of boys and girls were neglected and physically abused. Seventy-eight percent of sexually abused children were female.
- The proportion of White children with supported allegations was 35%, 40%, and 45% for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, respectively (Table A12.). Hispanic children accounted for 27% of physically abused, 22% of sexually abused, and 22% of neglected children. Seventeen percent (17%) of physically abused children, 9% of sexually abused children, and 12% of neglected children were Black.

Grouping maltreated children in Massachusetts by the age classes used in national studies, yields the following relative percentages.³⁶

Children with Supported Allegations				
Type of Maltreatment	Year	Age Groups (yrs.)		
		0-5	6-11	12-17
Sexual Abuse:	1989	35%	35%	30%
	1997	28%	36%	36%
	2007	18%	36%	46%
Physical Abuse:	1989	32%	35%	33%
	1997	26%	40%	33%
	2007	22%	38%	40%
Neglect:	1989	54%	30%	16%
	1997	44%	36%	21%
	2007	44%	31%	25%

- Over the years, the 0 to 5 age group has been declining for all types of maltreatment (see above). Meanwhile, fluctuations in the 6 to 11 age group have resulted in little change overall. From 1989 to 2007, the 12 to 17 age group has increased 7% for physical abuse, 9% for neglect, and 16% for sexual abuse. For whatever reasons, there has been a shift in victimized children from the youngest to the oldest, regardless of the type of maltreatment.

³⁶ Relative percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding-off.

3. Age, Gender, and Relationship of Perpetrator by Type of Maltreatment Supported

The following characteristics are presented for only those perpetrators who were found to have victimized a child. A perpetrator who committed more than one type of maltreatment on a child was counted in each maltreatment category. For each maltreatment category the counts represent the number of victimized children.

Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to be female (58% female vs. 40% male). Most perpetrators of sexual abuse were male (84% male). There were approximately equal proportions of male and female perpetrators of physical abuse (50% male vs. 46% female). (Appendix Table A13)

The majority of perpetrators, regardless of the type of maltreatment, were in the 30-39 year age group—37% of neglect perpetrators, 40% of physical abuse perpetrators, and 29% of sexual abuse perpetrators. Compared to physical abuse and neglect, there were greater proportions sexual abuse perpetrators who were teenagers or 50 years or older. (Appendix Table A13)

Perpetrators of neglect were more likely to have been identified as a perpetrator in a prior supported investigation. The prior supported finding may have been for a different type of maltreatment. This higher proportion of repeat offenders may be an indicator of chronic neglect—a major problem confronting child protective service agencies. (Appendix Table A13)

The perpetrator's relationship to the victimized child is displayed by the type of supported maltreatment in the following table. Only those relationship categories with the highest proportions of victims are shown. Biological parents are the leading perpetrators of neglect and physical abuse. The proportion of mothers is greater than the proportion of fathers, especially for neglect. Fathers are the most significant perpetrators of sexual abuse. They are followed by Other Relative, Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home, and Stepfather. (Appendix Table A13)

Perpetrator's Relationship to Victimized Child by Type of Maltreatment					
<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
Biological Mother	53%	Biological Mother	39%	Biological Father	22%
Biological Father	30%	Biological Father	33%	Other Relative	12%
Mother's Partner in Home	6%	Mother's Partner in Home	7%	Unrelated Caretaker Out-of-Home	12%
Stepfather	2%	Stepfather	5%	Stepfather	10%

4. DCF Area Offices: 2006 to 2007 Changes in Victimizations by Type of Maltreatment Supported

From 2006 to 2007, the number of children with supported allegations of neglect rose 6% statewide, while physical abuse was virtually unchanged and sexual abuse declined 11% (Appendix Tables A14-A16).

Annual changes in the numbers of victimized children within DCF regions mask fluctuations at the area-office level. Consequently, the following analysis is directed at those area offices (“catchment areas”) with appreciable 2006-2007 increases in children with supported allegations. Appendix Tables A14-A16 display statistics for all DCF areas and regions.

The Pittsfield (32%), Worcester East (26%), and Brockton (18%) DCF Areas exhibited the largest growth in neglected children (Table A14). For physical abuse, the most significant increases were recorded at the Pittsfield (47%), Van Wart (41%), and Harbor (27%) Offices (Table A15). Area offices with relatively large increases in sexually abused children were Framingham (214%), Brockton (75%), and Cape & Islands (64%) (Table A12).

Neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse as a percentage of all maltreatment were highest in the DCF areas presented below. Statistics for all DCF areas and regions appear in Appendix Tables A14-A16. For each DCF office, the tables show how common a particular form of maltreatment is relative to other types of maltreatment.

Type of Allegation Supported as a Percentage of All Maltreatment Supported at DCF Areas

<i>Neglect</i>		<i>Physical Abuse</i>		<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	
Greenfield	99%	Lawrence	26%	North Central	4%
Van Wart	97%	North Central	24%	Worcester East	4%
Pittsfield	97%	Dimock Street	20%	Cape & Islands	4%
Haverhill	97%	Park Street	19%	Worcester West	4%
Coastal	96%	Harbor	17%	Dimock Street	4%
Arlington	96%				
Statewide	92%	Statewide	12%	Statewide	2%

Neglect was the predominant form of maltreatment throughout the area offices (92% statewide) (see above table). Physical and sexual abuse accounted for 12% and 2% of all children with supported allegations, respectively. Ranking area offices within each maltreatment category revealed that neglect was prominent throughout the area offices (ranged from 84% in Lawrence to 99% in Greenfield). Physical abuse was most prevalent in the Lawrence and North Central Area Offices. Sexual abuse was equally common at the North Central, Worcester East, Cape & Islands, Worcester West, and Dimock Street Area Offices.

5. Investigation Outcomes for Children with Supported Allegations by Type of Maltreatment

Based on the information gathered during an investigation, the investigator and supervisor decide on the outcome of the case. Possible outcomes for the family of a child with supported allegations are presented below.

Investigation Outcomes for Children with Supported Allegations of Maltreatment

Type of Maltreatment	Open for Services	Continue Ongoing Services	No Services Required ³⁷	Referred for Voluntary Services ³⁸	Unable to Locate Family	Total
Neglect	22506 (65%)	7907 (23%)	3950 (11%)	12 (*)	23 (*)	34398
Physical Abuse	2960 (64%)	1091 (24%)	537 (12%)	5 (*)	---	4593
Sexual Abuse	332 (39%)	6060 (26%)	291 (34%)	1 (*)	---	853

Note: These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

(*) Less than 1% after rounding-off

Investigation outcomes for neglected and physically abused children were similar, 64-65% had their cases opened for services (new cases) and 23-24% had their services continued (ongoing cases). Sexually abused children had a significantly lower “open for services” outcome—39%. This disparity in investigation outcomes occurred because sexually abused children were more likely to have an outcome of “no services required”—34% vs. 11-12% for neglect and physical abuse (see first footnote below).

The type of maltreatment had no effect on the percentage of children receiving placement services within 90 days following an investigation disposition to support an allegation: 7% of neglected, 9% of physically abused, and 9% of sexually abused children entered placement.

³⁷ The case is not opened. Examples are: (1) the alleged perpetrator was not a family member (baby sitter, bus driver, etc.) and the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) acted appropriately when the situation was identified; (2) the alleged perpetrator is out of the home and poses no current or potential threat to the reported child(ren), and the parent(s) or parent substitute(s) had dealt with the situation appropriately.

³⁸ Families are offered supportive services.

G. Child Maltreatment and the DCF Caseload

Child maltreatment is the driving force behind the DCF caseload. On the 31st of December 2007, 80% of 8,979 children less than 18 years old in placement had their case opened by a supported report of maltreatment. The remaining children in placement entered DCF care via a voluntary request, CHINS referral, and other means (court referral, institutional abuse/neglect). Of 33,573 children not in placement (active case status with an assessment for services or a service plan) less than 18 years old, 84% had case openings via a supported report. On the last day of 2007, DCF had 24,841 open cases representing 81,040 consumers.³⁹ A total of 38,488 adults and 42,552 children were being served.

³⁹ Total consumers include all individuals with an active case status on the last day of the year and were in a case with an assessment for services or a service plan. These selection criteria exclude consumers not in placement who have an active case status that is pending the outcome of an investigation.

VI. Appendix

Additional Tables

A1 to A16

Table A1. Duplicated and Unduplicated Child Maltreatment Counts by Type of Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2007 ¹

Counts	Type of Maltreatment						
	All ² Maltreatment	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Maltreatment	Congenital Drug Addiction	Failure to Thrive
Duplicated Count of Reported Children	114,421	97,096	20,821	7,260	174	27	13
Reports	74,880	60,246	17,408	6,541	139	27	13
Children per Report	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.3	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Reported Children	76,747	66,775	17,303	5,830	170	27	12
Duplicated Count of Investigated Children	64,799	57,564	14,080	2,605	126	23	12
Investigations	40,535	34,696	11,412	2,250	103	23	12
Children per Investigation	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Investigated Children	55,090	49,384	13,186	2,492	126	23	11
Duplicated Count of Supported Children	37,209	34,398	4,593	853	40	20	7
Supported Investigations	23,337	21,077	3,859	767	34	20	7
Children per Supported Investigation	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1	1
Unduplicated Count of Supported Children	33,435	30,981	4,466	845	40	20	6

¹ Duplicated means that a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation, whereas with unduplicated counts, a child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

² Total counts for all maltreatment do not equal the summation of specific maltreatment counts due to children with more than one type of maltreatment alleged or supported.

Table A2. Counts of All Reported Children by Report Source during January 1 - December 31, 2007

Report Source	Child Counts ¹				
			2006 to 2007		2007 Screened-In No. %
	2007 Reported No.	2006 Reported No.	Annual Change %		
Law Enforcement Agency	18,761	17,105	10%	13,780	73%
Medical Professionals	10,128	9,315	9%	7,218	71%
School Personnel	10,227	9,133	12%	6,891	67%
DSS Social Worker	4,044	3,459	17%	3,069	76%
Court	2,219	1,971	13%	1,399	63%
Private Social Service Agency	1,592	1,457	9%	977	61%
Day-Care Provider	776	790	-2%	484	62%
Other Mass. State Agency	816	711	15%	494	61%
Out-of-State Agency	327	354	-8%	190	58%
Foster Parent	138	172	-20%	83	60%
Other Substitute-Care Provider	168	153	10%	85	51%
Other Mandated Reporter	9,179	7,935	16%	5,856	64%
Missing ²	24,246	24,680	-2%	16,365	67%
Total Mandated	82,621	77,235	7%	56,891	69%
Self (Victim)	136	132	3%	101	74%
Father in Home	383	310	24%	183	48%
Father Out of Home	2,368	2,161	10%	1,153	49%
Mother in Home	1,011	990	2%	476	47%
Mother Out of Home	686	662	4%	273	40%
Stepparent	103	102	1%	56	54%
Sibling	92	138	-33%	56	61%
Other Relative	2,475	2,481	*	1,526	62%
Other Nonmandated Reporter	3,617	3,095	17%	2,095	58%
Missing ²	6,585	7,599	-13%	3,889	59%
Total Nonmandated	17,456	17,670	-1%	9,808	56%
Anonymous	14,344	14,880	-4%	7,444	52%
All Sources	114,421	109,785	4%	74,143	65%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Type of reporter was not recorded.

Table A3. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Neglect: 1989 - 2007

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported No.	Annual Change %	Screened-In No.	Annual Change %	Investigated No.	Annual Change %	Supported No.	Annual Change %
1989	38,010	---	28,625	---	N/A	N/A	14,048	---
1990	46,766	23%	37,921	32%	N/A	N/A	19,293	37%
1991	52,681	13%	41,029	8%	N/A	N/A	20,763	8%
1992	54,161	3%	37,963	-7%	N/A	N/A	18,307	-12%
1993	64,768	20%	37,457	-1%	N/A	N/A	17,840	-3%
1994	71,723	11%	41,743	11%	N/A	N/A	20,664	16%
1995	73,582	3%	42,897	3%	N/A	N/A	20,283	-2%
1996	77,845	6%	46,314	8%	N/A	N/A	22,148	9%
1997	80,091	3%	49,319	6%	N/A	N/A	24,538	11%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,052	-10%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24,782	12%
2000	82,781	---	56,715	---	52,640	---	29,114	17%
2001	85,206	3%	57,908	2%	53,078	1%	29,770	2%
2002	86,560	2%	58,436	1%	53,817	1%	30,262	2%
2003	87,714	1%	59,492	2%	54,962	2%	31,430	4%
2004	90,733	3%	60,680	2%	55,294	1%	32,043	2%
2005	91,266	1%	59,330	-2%	54,236	-2%	31,555	-2%
2006	92,545	1%	60,681	2%	55,001	1%	32,367	3%
2007	97,096	5%	63,913	5%	57,564	5%	34,398	6%

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A4. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Physical Abuse: 1989 - 2007

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported No.	Annual Change %	Screened-In No.	Annual Change %	Investigated No.	Annual Change %	Supported No.	Annual Change %
1989	18,873	---	16,257	---	N/A	N/A	6,768	---
1990	21,461	14%	18,927	16%	N/A	N/A	7,822	16%
1991	22,350	4%	19,053	1%	N/A	N/A	7,630	-2%
1992	22,273	*	17,832	-6%	N/A	N/A	6,562	-14%
1993	26,691	20%	18,170	2%	N/A	N/A	6,590	*
1994	26,657	*	18,606	2%	N/A	N/A	6,213	-6%
1995	26,235	-2%	18,757	1%	N/A	N/A	6,166	-1%
1996	27,676	5%	19,607	5%	N/A	N/A	6,650	8%
1997	28,898	4%	21,328	9%	N/A	N/A	7,182	8%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,603	-22%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,805	4%
2000	23,972	---	18,313	---	17,582	---	6,432	11%
2001	23,254	-3%	17,763	-3%	16,887	-4%	6,103	-5%
2002	23,778	2%	17,805	*	16,908	*	5,777	-5%
2003	23,218	-2%	17,426	-2%	16,662	-1%	5,698	-1%
2004	22,581	-3%	16,738	-4%	15,677	-6%	5,218	-8%
2005	21,355	-5%	15,402	-8%	14,515	-7%	4,727	-9%
2006	20,581	-4%	15,105	-2%	14,048	-3%	4,597	-3%
2007	20,821	1%	15,189	1%	14,080	*	4,593	*

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A5. Child Counts from Reports and Investigations of Sexual Abuse: 1983 - 2007

Calendar Year	Child Counts ¹							
	Reported No.	Annual Change %	Screened-In No.	Annual Change %	Investigated No.	Annual Change %	Supported No.	Annual Change %
1983	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,386	--
1984	5,834	---	5,065	---	4,056	---	2,826	104%
1985	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,533	25%
1986	6,838	---	6,002	---	N/A	N/A	2,965	-16%
1987	5,992	-12%	5,245	-13%	N/A	N/A	2,554	-14%
1988	6,499	8%	5,503	5%	N/A	N/A	2,557	*
1989	7,184	11%	5,913	7%	N/A	N/A	2,707	6%
1990	7,605	6%	6,358	8%	N/A	N/A	2,784	3%
1991	7,824	3%	6,322	-1%	N/A	N/A	2,538	-9%
1992	8,204	5%	6,180	-2%	N/A	N/A	2,450	-3%
1993	8,640	5%	5,641	-9%	N/A	N/A	2,149	-12%
1994	8,331	-4%	5,299	-6%	N/A	N/A	1,930	-10%
1995	7,243	-13%	4,454	-16%	N/A	N/A	1,516	-21%
1996	7,638	5%	4,832	8%	N/A	N/A	1,415	-7%
1997	7,607	*	4,532	-6%	N/A	N/A	1,451	3%
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,220	-16%
1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,136	-7%
2000	6,826	---	3,772	---	3,496	---	1,216	7%
2001	6,874	1%	3,559	-6%	3,221	-8%	1,152	-5%
2002	7,865	14%	3,835	8%	3,470	8%	1,210	5%
2003	7,243	-8%	3,430	-11%	3,066	-12%	1,057	-13%
2004	7,693	6%	3,489	2%	3,090	1%	1,052	*
2005	7,692	*	3,272	-6%	2,956	-4%	976	-7%
2006	7,381	-4%	3,223	-1%	2,804	-5%	956	-2%
2007	7,260	-2%	3,003	-7%	2,605	-7%	853	-11%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

NA = Not Available

¹ Duplicated counts since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report and investigation during the year.

Table A6. Child Maltreatment Reporting Rate and Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors by Incorporated City and Town

City/Town ¹	2007 ² Reporting Rate (per 1,000)	2006 ³ Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	1999 ⁴ % Families w/Related Children <18 Below Poverty Level	
			Families w/Female Householder and No Husband Present	
			Families (%)	(%)
North Adams	165.4	35.3	25.9%	53.1%
Holyoke	137.4	94.8	33.9%	55.1%
Pittsfield	132.6	49.6	16.2%	40.1%
Springfield	120.1	80.7	29.4%	47.5%
New Bedford	116.9	70.1	25.3%	49.6%
Southbridge	106.3	64.5	20.7%	41.8%
Greenfield	102.9	36.1	18.9%	46.8%
Fitchburg	92.3	58.2	18.5%	42.1%
Chicopee	89.3	33.4	16.0%	34.9%
Fall River	86.5	51.6	21.7%	44.5%
Lawrence	84.1	80.6	26.7%	43.8%
Haverhill	81.7	38.3	11.3%	32.3%
Gardner	80.7	38.7	10.5%	28.7%
Worcester	79.7	34.4	20.9%	43.6%
Webster	79.4	29.9	11.2%	33.3%
Everett	79.0	34.9	14.3%	31.7%
Brockton	78.5	42.9	17.3%	35.6%
Salem	72.3	21.6	12.1%	26.7%
Lynn	71.8	47.7	19.1%	40.2%
Chelsea	70.5	79.0	24.9%	42.0%
Lowell	70.1	50.9	19.2%	41.8%
West Springfield	69.1	36.3	15.8%	38.8%
Wareham	69.0	26.9	13.2%	32.4%
Leominster	64.6	30.3	10.4%	27.1%
Revere	63.0	37.0	17.8%	36.3%
Taunton	61.8	32.5	12.1%	35.8%
Malden	58.5	19.6	10.7%	22.8%
Westfield	57.8	16.2	12.1%	34.1%
Boston	56.0	28.7	22.2%	37.4%
Quincy	54.7	10.6	9.1%	24.9%
Gloucester	52.4	21.1	10.8%	37.1%
Beverly	50.6	4.4	6.1%	21.5%
Attleboro	50.5	23.8	5.0%	15.9%
Barnstable	49.8	21.3	11.1%	31.6%
Waltham	48.9	10.3	4.1%	15.4%
Peabody	48.5	10.5	4.8%	15.5%
Falmouth	48.3	22.6	7.6%	20.6%
Marlborough	48.2	31.4	6.8%	27.8%
Randolph	46.2	18.3	3.6%	10.8%
Framingham	45.7	33.2	10.8%	35.1%
Methuen	44.2	21.9	9.3%	30.9%
Woburn	43.6	11.3	7.8%	27.3%
Somerville	42.8	15.7	13.0%	31.6%
Plymouth	41.9	17.9	6.0%	25.4%
Weymouth	41.8	18.6	6.6%	22.8%
Cambridge	36.4	8.2	12.6%	24.3%
Medford	36.2	8.4	5.4%	19.1%
Newton	18.9	2.3	3.9%	11.9%
MASSACHUSETTS	51.2	21.3	10.1%	31.2%
NATIONWIDE	---	---	13.6%	34.3%

¹ Residence of reported children at time of the report. Selected municipalities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

² Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

³ Number of Births per 1,000 Females ages 15 - 19 years (Source: Teen Births (15 - 19 year old mothers) during 2006; Females 15 - 19 years old residing in Massachusetts in 2005 from Births Vital Records Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP V3.0, r321), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, rupdate: June 4, 2008 (masschip.state.ma.us)

⁴ % of all Families with related children less than 18 years old who were below poverty level. % of all families with female householder and no husband present with related children less than 18 years who were below poverty level (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, DP - 3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) - Sample Data (factfinder.census.gov)

Table A7. Child Maltreatment Reporting Rate and Associated Demographic/Socioeconomic Factors by Incorporated City and Town

City/Town ¹	2007 ² Reporting Rate (per 1,000)	1999 ³ % Households w/Public Assistance Income (%)	1999 ⁴ Median Family Income (dollars)	2007 ⁵ % Unemployed Annual Average
North Adams	165.4	5.7%	\$37,635	5.9%
Holyoke	137.4	11.2%	\$36,130	6.7%
Pittsfield	132.6	3.6%	\$46,228	4.5%
Springfield	120.1	8.6%	\$36,285	7.0%
New Bedford	116.9	7.1%	\$35,708	7.6%
Southbridge	106.3	6.8%	\$41,863	6.1%
Greenfield	102.9	5.4%	\$46,412	4.8%
Fitchburg	92.3	5.9%	\$43,291	6.3%
Chicopee	89.3	4.2%	\$44,136	5.7%
Fall River	86.5	6.5%	\$37,671	8.3%
Lawrence	84.1	9.0%	\$31,809	8.9%
Haverhill	81.7	3.0%	\$59,772	4.8%
Gardner	80.7	3.2%	\$47,164	6.0%
Worcester	79.7	6.0%	\$42,988	5.4%
Webster	79.4	4.5%	\$48,898	5.9%
Everett	79.0	3.6%	\$49,876	4.9%
Brockton	78.5	5.6%	\$46,235	5.8%
Salem	72.3	2.9%	\$55,635	4.5%
Lynn	71.8	6.3%	\$45,295	5.4%
Chelsea	70.5	7.3%	\$32,130	6.2%
Lowell	70.1	5.8%	\$45,901	5.5%
West Springfield	69.1	4.7%	\$50,282	4.8%
Wareham	69.0	4.1%	\$45,750	5.4%
Leominster	64.6	3.4%	\$54,660	5.5%
Revere	63.0	3.1%	\$45,865	5.3%
Taunton	61.8	3.7%	\$52,433	5.0%
Malden	58.5	2.4%	\$55,557	4.3%
Westfield	57.8	3.7%	\$55,327	4.6%
Boston	56.0	4.1%	\$44,151	4.4%
Quincy	54.7	2.1%	\$59,735	4.3%
Gloucester	52.4	2.5%	\$58,459	5.4%
Beverly	50.6	2.7%	\$66,486	3.9%
Attleboro	50.5	2.3%	\$59,112	4.9%
Barnstable	49.8	1.7%	\$54,026	4.2%
Waltham	48.9	1.9%	\$64,595	3.6%
Peabody	48.5	1.5%	\$65,483	4.3%
Falmouth	48.3	1.5%	\$57,422	4.3%
Marlborough	48.2	2.0%	\$70,385	3.6%
Randolph	46.2	2.1%	\$61,942	4.8%
Framingham	45.7	2.4%	\$67,420	3.4%
Methuen	44.2	2.8%	\$59,831	5.3%
Woburn	43.6	1.7%	\$66,364	4.1%
Somerville	42.8	2.2%	\$51,243	3.2%
Plymouth	41.9	1.7%	\$63,266	5.0%
Weymouth	41.8	1.6%	\$64,083	4.5%
Cambridge	36.4	2.2%	\$59,423	3.0%
Medford	36.2	1.7%	\$62,409	4.0%
Newton	18.9	1.4%	\$105,289	3.0%
MASSACHUSETTS	51.2	2.9%	\$61,664	4.5%
NATIONWIDE	---	3.4%	\$50,046	4.6%

¹ Residence of child at time of the report. Selected municipalities had more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

² Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children less than 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

³ Households with public assistance income as a percent of all households (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, DP - 3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) - Sample Data, (factfinder.census.gov)

⁴ Median family income (Source: same as Footnote 3)

⁵ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Official Website of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development: Labor Force and Unemployment Data by City and Town, Calendar Year 2007 (Not Seasonally Adjusted Data) (lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lur_a.asp)

Table A8. Child Maltreatment Reporting and Victimization Rates by Incorporated City/Town

City/Town ¹	All Maltreatment			
	Reported Children ² No.	Reporting Rate ³ (per 1,000)	Victimized Children ⁴ No.	Victimization Rate ⁵ (per 1,000)
North Adams	543	165.4	208	63.4
Holyoke	1,613	137.4	817	69.6
Pittsfield	1,406	132.6	610	57.5
Springfield	5,288	120.1	2,460	55.9
New Bedford	2,726	116.9	1,477	63.3
Southbridge	464	106.3	227	52.0
Greenfield	409	102.9	192	48.3
Fitchburg	933	92.3	391	38.7
Chicopee	1,105	89.3	601	48.6
Fall River	1,918	86.5	900	40.6
Lawrence	1,937	84.1	947	41.1
Haverhill	1,238	81.7	537	35.4
Gardner	398	80.7	203	41.2
Worcester	3,246	79.7	1,411	34.6
Webster	303	79.4	162	42.5
Everett	650	79.0	306	37.2
Brockton	2,062	78.5	999	38.1
Salem	590	72.3	283	34.7
Lynn	1,726	71.8	779	32.4
Chelsea	675	70.5	329	34.4
Lowell	1,986	70.1	855	30.2
West Springfield	452	69.1	194	29.7
Wareham	344	69.0	133	26.7
Leominster	681	64.6	327	31.0
Revere	625	63.0	275	27.7
Taunton	860	61.8	348	25.0
Malden	657	58.5	345	30.7
Westfield	551	57.8	273	28.6
Boston	6,525	56.0	2,961	25.4
Quincy	841	54.7	314	20.4
Gloucester	349	52.4	142	21.3
Beverly	438	50.6	199	23.0
Attleboro	539	50.5	229	21.5
Barnstable	523	49.8	219	20.9
Waltham	449	48.9	184	20.1
Peabody	520	48.5	211	19.7
Falmouth	327	48.3	129	19.1
Marlborough	406	48.2	172	20.4
Randolph	333	46.2	131	18.2
Framingham	655	45.7	305	21.3
Methuen	479	44.2	230	21.2
Woburn	343	43.6	161	20.5
Somerville	492	42.8	247	21.5
Plymouth	559	41.9	178	13.3
Weymouth	496	41.8	242	20.4
Cambridge	490	36.4	240	17.8
Medford	362	36.2	191	19.1
Newton	336	18.9	94	5.3
MASSACHUSETTS	76,747	51.2	33,435	22.3

¹ Residence of reported children at time of the report. Selected municipalities are those with more than 300 (unduplicated count) children in residence who were reported maltreated.

² A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times reported during the year.

³ Reporting Rate for all maltreatment = number of reported children per 1,000 resident children under 18 years old. Resident children less than 18 years old in Massachusetts from U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Quick Tables, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) (factfinder.census.gov)

⁴ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment. A child is counted only once, regardless of the number of times he/she was the subject of an investigation during the year.

⁵ Victimization Rate for all maltreatment = number of victimized children per 1,000 resident children under 18 years old

Table A9. Reported Children by Report Source, Screening Decision, and Type of Alleged Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2007

Report Source	Reported Children by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	Reported	% Screened-In	Reported	% Screened-In	Reported	% Screened-In
Law Enforcement Agency	16,929	75%	2,044	75%	849	43%
Medical Professionals	8,121	74%	1,777	76%	1,049	42%
School Personnel	7,322	67%	3,614	79%	695	35%
DSS Social Worker	3,459	78%	558	80%	373	49%
Court	2,018	65%	295	67%	67	30%
Private Social Service Agency	1,217	62%	411	72%	151	44%
Day-Care Provider	534	61%	277	77%	53	30%
Other Mass. State Agency	662	65%	155	53%	70	34%
Out-of-State Agency	253	64%	60	50%	47	45%
Foster Parent	102	66%	31	84%	35	37%
Other Substitute-Care Provider	114	55%	47	57%	27	30%
Other Mandated Reporter	7,104	66%	2,153	70%	803	35%
Missing ²	19,630	69%	5,104	74%	1,995	42%
Total Mandated	67,465	71%	16,526	75%	6,214	41%
Self (Victim)	111	77%	54	80%	15	27%
Father in Home	341	48%	59	54%	19	58%
Father Out of Home	2,214	48%	350	63%	48	35%
Mother in Home	780	47%	228	60%	132	39%
Mother Out of Home	617	38%	127	62%	23	22%
Stepparent	93	55%	28	68%	5	20%
Sibling	81	60%	23	61%	3	33%
Other Relative	2,338	62%	341	79%	101	50%
Other Nonmandated Reporter	3,272	58%	502	73%	145	49%
Missing ²	6,024	59%	935	67%	257	52%
Total Nonmandated	15,871	56%	2,647	68%	748	46%
Anonymous	13,760	52%	1,648	63%	298	46%
All Sources	97,096	66%	20,821	73%	7,260	41%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Type of reporter was not recorded.

Table A10. Bio-Mother's Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Marital Status by Type of Alleged Maltreatment Reported during January 1 - December 31, 2007

Bio-Mother's Characteristics	Child Counts by Type of Alleged Maltreatment ¹					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age: ²						
12 - 17	571	1%	46	*	2	*
18 - 19	1,289	2%	154	1%	15	*
20 - 29	21,930	33%	3,741	29%	926	23%
30 - 39	28,002	43%	5,903	45%	1,864	46%
40 - 49	12,265	19%	2,840	22%	1,046	26%
50 - 59	1,363	2%	350	3%	145	4%
60 & older	34	*	17	*	3	*
Unspecified	169	*	52	*	10	*
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%
Race:						
White	40,578	62%	7,341	56%	2,431	61%
Black	8,649	13%	2,007	15%	494	12%
Asian	871	1%	264	2%	44	1%
Native American	184	*	36	*	16	*
Pacific Islander	49	*	4	*	2	*
Multi-Racial	760	1%	139	1%	39	1%
Unable to Determine	6,818	10%	1,650	13%	427	11%
Missing ³	7,714	12%	1,662	13%	558	14%
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%
Hispanic Origin:						
Yes	12,952	20%	3,006	23%	849	21%
No	37,537	57%	6,962	53%	2,140	53%
Unspecied	15,134	23%	3,135	24%	1,022	25%
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%
Marital Status:						
Married	16,404	25%	3,750	29%	1,161	29%
Single	37,911	58%	6,894	53%	2,029	51%
Separated	3,996	6%	797	6%	236	6%
Divorced	4,611	7%	1,003	8%	387	10%
Widowed	371	1%	80	1%	20	*
Missing	2,330	4%	579	4%	178	4%
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

¹ These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of a report during the year.

² Age of mother at time of report

³ Race was not recorded.

Table A11. Age of Bio-Mothers in 2007 and at Birth of Their Oldest Child by Type of Maltreatment of Children Reported during January 1 - December 31, 2007 ¹

Reported Children by Type of Maltreatment						
Bio-Mother's Age in 2007 (yrs)	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12 - 17	571	1%	46	*	2	*
18 - 19	1,289	2%	154	1%	15	*
20 - 29	21,930	33%	3,741	29%	926	23%
30 - 39	28,002	43%	5,903	45%	1,864	46%
40 - 49	12,265	19%	2,840	22%	1,046	26%
50 - 59	1,363	2%	350	3%	145	4%
60 & older	34	*	17	*	3	*
Unspecified	169	*	52	*	10	*
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%
Median Age	33 years		34 years		35 years	
Age at Birth of Oldest Child (yrs)						
12 - 17	15,275	23%	2,932	22%	795	20%
18 - 19	15,833	24%	3,002	23%	866	22%
20 - 29	27,844	42%	5,721	44%	1,830	46%
30 - 39	5,614	9%	1,205	9%	430	11%
40 - 49	354	1%	78	1%	28	1%
50 - 59	---	---	---	---	---	---
60 & older	---	---	---	---	---	---
Unspecified	703	1%	165	1%	62	2%
Total	65,623	100%	13,103	100%	4,011	100%
Median Age	20 years		20 years		20 years	

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off.

¹ These are duplicated counts of the bio-mothers of children reported maltreated in 2007.

Table A12. Race of Victimized Children ¹ by Type of Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2007

Race/Ethnicity	Child Counts by Type of Maltreatment ²					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	15,428	45%	1,627	35%	338	40%
Black	4,180	12%	759	17%	75	9%
Hispanic ³	7,690	22%	1,247	27%	190	22%
Asian	544	2%	129	3%	10	1%
Native American	49	*	3	*	2	*
Pacific Islander	17	*	5	*	---	---
Multi-Racial	961	3%	88	2%	21	2%
Unable to determine	1,412	4%	212	5%	37	4%
Missing ⁴	4,117	12%	523	11%	180	21%
All Sources	34,398	100%	4,593	100%	853	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

⁽¹⁾ Children who were the subject of an investigation that resulted in a supported allegation of maltreatment.

⁽²⁾ These are duplicated counts since a child subjected to more than one form of maltreatment is counted under each maltreatment category. Also, a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation during the year.

⁽³⁾ Hispanic includes all races.

⁽⁴⁾ Race was not recorded.

Table A13. Perpetrator Characteristics by Type of Supported Maltreatment during January 1 - December 31, 2007

Perpetrator Characteristics	Counts of Victimized Children ¹ Type of Maltreatment Supported					
	Neglect		Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Gender						
Male	18,089	40%	2,450	50%	695	84%
Female	26,223	58%	2,264	46%	40	5%
Unknown	1,123	2%	184	4%	97	12%
Total	45,435	100%	4,898	100%	832	100%
Age Group (yrs.)						
10 - 11	7	*	1	*	---	---
12 - 17	369	1%	41	1%	58	8%
18 - 19	1,073	2%	62	1%	26	4%
20 - 29	14,682	33%	1,103	23%	142	19%
30 - 39	16,560	37%	1,864	40%	212	29%
40 - 49	9,575	21%	1,243	26%	187	25%
50 - 59	1,940	4%	317	7%	62	8%
60 - 69	386	1%	78	2%	30	4%
70 or older	86	*	6	*	17	2%
Unknown	757	---	183	---	98	---
Total	45,435	100%	4,898	100%	832	100%
Identified as Perpetrator in a Prior Supported Investigation ²						
Yes	20,618	45%	1,843	38%	227	27%
No ³	24,817	55%	3,055	62%	605	73%
Total	45,435	100%	4,898	100%	832	100%
Relationship						
Biological Mother	24,077	53%	1,905	39%	18	2%
Biological Father	13,406	30%	1,593	33%	180	22%
Stepmother	195	*	52	1%	---	---
Stepfather	1,062	2%	262	5%	80	10%
Adoptive Mother	102	*	30	1%	---	---
Adoptive Father	73	*	22	*	7	1%
Mom's Partner in Home	2,517	6%	346	7%	64	8%
Mom's Partner out of Home	790	2%	81	2%	41	5%
Dad's Partner in Home	202	*	30	1%	---	---
Dad's Partner out of Home	41	*	8	*	4	*
Grandmother Maternal	503	1%	62	1%	5	1%
Grandmother Paternal	114	*	27	1%	---	---
Grandfather Maternal	148	*	12	*	19	2%
Grandfather Paternal	45	*	5	*	27	3%
Sibling Brother	89	*	46	1%	40	5%
Sibling Sister	72	*	17	*	---	---
Other Relative	549	1%	114	2%	99	12%
Unrelated Caretaker in Home	186	*	34	1%	21	3%
Unrelated Caretaker out of Home	253	1%	35	1%	99	12%
Foster Mother	66	*	11	*	---	---
Foster Father	37	*	4	*	1	*
Legal Guardian	439	1%	74	2%	11	1%
Day Care (Family Based)	27	*	2	*	4	*
Day Care (Center Based)	25	*	7	*	---	---
Residential Program	92	*	23	*	2	*
Public School	17	*	20	*	4	*
Private School	2	*	2	*	---	---
After School Program	6	*	---	---	---	---
Other Institution	22	*	5	*	5	1%
Other Person	249	1%	34	1%	87	10%
Unknown	29	*	35	1%	14	2%
Total	45,435	100%	4,898	100%	832	100%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year. Also, a child subjected to more than one type of maltreatment is counted in each maltreatment category.

² The prior supported finding may have been for a different type of maltreatment.

³ No prior supported investigation was found. However, the individual may not have been identified in a previous supported investigation.

Table A14. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Neglect by DCF Area Office and Region
during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2007	% Change	2007	% Change	Neglect
	All Maltreatment	All	Neglect	Neglect	as % of All
	No.	2006 - 2007	No.	2006 - 2007	Maltreatment
Pittsfield	1,384	32%	1,338	32%	97%
Greenfield	1,180	6%	1,165	6%	99%
Holyoke	1,712	4%	1,606	4%	94%
Van Wart Center	2,281	13%	2,211	14%	97%
Springfield	2,035	9%	1,904	12%	94%
West	8,592	12%	8,224	13%	96%
North Central	1,397	5%	1,253	5%	90%
South Central	1,367	3%	1,230	3%	90%
Worcester East	1,283	25%	1,159	26%	90%
Worcester West	1,072	-9%	952	-8%	89%
Central	5,119	6%	4,594	6%	90%
Lowell	1,332	-3%	1,209	*	91%
Lawrence	1,496	11%	1,253	15%	84%
Haverhill	981	3%	952	4%	97%
Cape Ann	1,159	-9%	1,096	-9%	95%
Lynn	989	8%	903	8%	91%
Northeast	5,957	2%	5,413	3%	91%
Malden	1,226	-6%	1,168	-2%	95%
Framingham	1,124	14%	1,069	16%	95%
Cambridge	874	8%	808	9%	92%
Arlington	973	8%	934	12%	96%
Coastal	1,137	-11%	1,093	-9%	96%
Metro	5,334	1%	5,072	4%	95%
Attleboro	972	7%	894	10%	92%
Brockton	1,496	19%	1,353	18%	90%
Fall River	1,287	*	1,195	1%	93%
New Bedford	2,116	8%	1,968	8%	93%
Cape & Islands	989	-6%	921	-7%	93%
Plymouth	1,075	*	1,024	1%	95%
Southeast	7,935	5%	7,355	6%	93%
Hyde Park	1,030	10%	923	15%	90%
Dimock Street	720	-14%	615	-12%	85%
Park Street	1,346	*	1,148	1%	85%
Harbor	1,108	9%	989	8%	89%
Boston	4,204	2%	3,675	3%	87%
Contracted Agencies	18	---	16	---	---
Unspecified	50	---	49	---	---
STATE	37,209	5%	34,398	6%	92%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.

Table A15. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Physical Abuse by DCF Area Office and Region during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2007	% Change	2007	% Change	Physical Abuse
	All Maltreatment	All	Physical Abuse	Physical Abuse	as % of All
	No.	2006 - 2007	No.	2006 - 2007	Maltreatment
Pittsfield	1,384	32%	88	47%	6%
Greenfield	1,180	6%	84	22%	7%
Holyoke	1,712	4%	151	-7%	9%
Robert Van Wart	2,281	13%	156	41%	7%
Springfield	2,035	9%	192	-6%	9%
West	8,592	12%	671	11%	8%
North Central	1,397	5%	336	*	24%
South Central	1,367	3%	218	-4%	16%
Worcester East	1,283	25%	154	-3%	12%
Worcester West	1,072	-9%	174	-21%	16%
Central	5,119	6%	882	-6%	17%
Lowell	1,332	-3%	171	-17%	13%
Lawrence	1,496	11%	388	7%	26%
Haverhill	981	3%	67	-1%	7%
Cape Ann	1,159	-9%	130	4%	11%
Lynn	989	8%	123	3%	12%
Northeast	5,957	2%	879	*	15%
Malden	1,226	-6%	173	-21%	14%
Framingham	1,124	14%	98	24%	9%
Cambridge	874	8%	98	4%	11%
Arlington	973	8%	93	-20%	10%
Coastal	1,137	-11%	86	-9%	8%
Metro	5,334	1%	548	-9%	10%
Attleboro	972	7%	111	-2%	11%
Brockton	1,496	19%	190	24%	13%
Fall River	1,287	*	136	-14%	11%
New Bedford	2,116	8%	251	20%	12%
Cape & Islands	989	-6%	95	-15%	10%
Plymouth	1,075	*	83	-14%	8%
Southeast	7,935	5%	866	3%	11%
Hyde Park	1,030	10%	160	*	16%
Dimock Street	720	-14%	142	-8%	20%
Park Street	1,346	*	255	*	19%
Harbor	1,108	9%	188	27%	17%
Boston	4,204	2%	745	4%	18%
Contracted Agencies	18	---	---	---	---
Unspecified	50	---	2	---	---
STATE	37,209	5%	4,593	< -1%	12%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.

Table A16. Children with Supported Allegations: All Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse by DCF Area Office and Region during January 1 - December 31, 2007

DCF Area Office/Region	Child Count from Supported Investigations ¹				
	2007	% Change	2007	% Change	Sexual Abuse as % of All Maltreatment
	All Maltreatment No.	All 2006 - 2007	Sexual Abuse No.	Sexual Abuse 2006 - 2007	
Pittsfield	1,384	32%	24	33%	2%
Greenfield	1,180	6%	38	27%	3%
Holyoke	1,712	4%	43	-20%	3%
Van Wart Center	2,281	13%	41	-13%	2%
Springfield	2,035	9%	41	-28%	2%
West	8,592	12%	187	-9%	2%
North Central	1,397	5%	57	4%	4%
South Central	1,367	3%	46	12%	3%
Worcester East	1,283	25%	47	38%	4%
Worcester West	1,072	-9%	40	-7%	4%
Central	5,119	6%	190	10%	4%
Lowell	1,332	-3%	13	-55%	1%
Lawrence	1,496	11%	42	-19%	3%
Haverhill	981	3%	5	-50%	1%
Cape Ann	1,159	-9%	22	-15%	2%
Lynn	989	8%	21	-19%	2%
Northeast	5,957	2%	103	-28%	2%
Malden	1,226	-6%	16	-33%	1%
Framingham	1,124	14%	22	214%	2%
Cambridge	874	8%	22	-15%	3%
Arlington	973	8%	17	-54%	2%
Coastal	1,137	-11%	11	-58%	1%
Metro	5,334	1%	88	-27%	2%
Attleboro	972	7%	18	-42%	2%
Brockton	1,496	19%	35	75%	2%
Fall River	1,287	*	24	-49%	2%
New Bedford	2,116	8%	45	2%	2%
Cape & Islands	989	-6%	41	64%	4%
Plymouth	1,075	*	20	-26%	2%
Southeast	7,935	5%	183	-6%	2%
Hyde Park	1,030	10%	13	-55%	1%
Dimock Street	720	-14%	27	29%	4%
Park Street	1,346	*	34	-17%	3%
Harbor	1,108	9%	26	24%	2%
Boston	4,204	2%	100	-11%	2%
Contracted Agencies	18	---	2	---	---
Unspecified	50	---	---	---	---
STATE	37,209	5%	853	-11%	2%

* = Less than 1% after rounding-off

¹ Counts of children are duplicated since a child is counted each time he/she is the subject of an investigation that results in a finding of maltreatment during the year.